Daily Report

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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat's Speech on 2d Anniversary of Intifadah

JN1012101489 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1746 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Address by Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat to Palestinians on 2d anniversary of the intifadah—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. If you pray for victory and judgment, now hath the judgment come to you: If you desist from wrong, it will be best for you. [part of Koranic verse] O sons of our great Palestinian people, o sons of our struggling Arab nation, o makers of the blessed intifadah in our country, o steadfast people in southern Lebanon and diaspora, o sons of Palestine everywhere. And say: Truth has now arrived, and falsehood perished, for flasehood is bound to perish. [Koranic verse] Thus, brothers and beloved ones, we begin the 3d year of our blessed intifadah, full of pride, hope, and confidence. We are optimistic about God's giving and blessings and happy with the resolve and strength God has bestowed on us on the 2d anniversary of our blessed popular intifadah over the blessed soil of Palestine. We are confidently, faithfully, strongly, and gradually approaching our rendezvous with freedom, victory, and independence. Blessed be the honest and faithful strugglers, those who sacrifice souls and dear possessions, the wounded who endure the pain, the forbearing detainees, the children of my country who are performing miracles, the glorious women of Palestine, and the men of my homeland who are making a bright history. Those have indeed arrived at this historical juncture through their unique revolutionariness. Through their profound faith and strong willpower, they have achieved this qualitative stride in the struggle of our Palestinian people, our entire Arab nation, and all the honest and free people in the entire world. This is being achieved through our people's blessed and continued popular intifadah, which has gloriously and proudly joined the history of revolutions. The intifadah is proving to the entire world the soundness and credibility of our revolutionary course and program which steers our people's march and struggle toward achieving and accumulating further gains through our people's creative revolution to wrench our indispensable sacred right to a free and honorable life and to impose the Palestinian factor, which has a key role in domestic, Arab and international events. It is He who sent His apostle with guidance and the religion of truth, to proclaim it over all religion. [part of Koranic verse] The land to which prophet Muhammad, may peace and blessings of God be upon him, made his night journey, and the cradle of the messiah, may peace be upon him, is being remolded within a creative revolutionary furnace, defying the colonialist executioners and confronting the fascist Nazi terrorism with its Zionist forces and the herds of settlers. Victory is God's promise to the believers.

Brothers, during the age of the intifadah, we are witnessing an era whose features have been shaped by sacrifices and pain and founded on the pain and agony of our wounded, prisoners, detainees, and strugglers who are making the future of their people and nation with their insight, willpower, profound faith, and enlightened political program, confronting and containing the hostile Zionist program, whose owners are still dreaming of their myths and colonialist illusions and imported superiority. This is not their own superiority; it is imported. They know that, and so do we. We are the sons of Palestine, the pure sacred land. We accomplish new achievements daily and add to our revolutionary reservoir new gains and new friends. We change, with our relentless inexhaustible struggle—he who is tired can step aside; we never become exhausted or tired—the convictions of the parties that were not friendly to us or neutral toward our cause. It is the crystal-clear facts which are bringing them to our true and just stands. Our peace initiatives call for the peace of strong and brave men, not the capitulation of weak ones and agents. Moreover, this wide-scale revolutionary struggle and the clear facts have exacerbated the impasse of the enemies. Yes, my brothers, the impasse of our enemies has been exacerbated. It has also tightened the siege around our enemies' policy, occupation, repression, and crimes. Let the Palestinian David stand to confront in the modern age the Zionist Goliath who is armed to the teeth with the most sophisticated U.S. weapons and the unlimited support of his allies in the U.S. Administration. Moreover, the impasse includes the United States, which still lacks courage to take a balanced or neutral stand.

Recently, the United Nations, o brothers and beloved ones, voted with a majority of 151 votes, against the Israeli occupation and the Israeli crimes and in favor of the Palestinian people. Only the U.S. Administration supports the Zionist enemy in a useless bid to turn the tide of history, stop the hands of the clock, and change the course of history. However, their [the Americans'] attempts are futile and doomed to failure, as our people's will is derived from God's will. It is forging ahead with all determination, faith, sacrifice, and with the glow of the blessed intifadah and also with the revolutionary accumulation of acts of heroism by our heroes, revolutionaries, and masses inside and outside the homeland. We will continue to make the thread of freedom harmonize with the inevitable course of history, contemporary age, and time, whose consequences are felt all over the world.

There is no going back. Do you hear me? There is no going back, there will be no leaps into the unknown, and there will be no nursing of delusions. They are our dreams, the realization of which was denied us. Nowadays, we are turning these dreams into facts and realities of this age. Do you understand? We are creating facts and realities. We will, without doubt, help our apostles and those who believe, both in this world's life and on the day when the witnesses will stand forth. [Koranic verse]

O my kinfolk, o all my kinfolk; o my beloved ones, o all my beloved ones inside and outside the homeland, in exile, in the diaspora, and on the land blessed by God. O heroes, o you forgers of the valiant epic of resistance. On the intifadah day, on the second anniversary of the outbreak of the intifadah, on this historic and glorious day, we remember the dearest among men, the righteous sons of our people who planted the tree of freedom, our beloved martyrs, the martyrs of the revolution and the intifadah. We also remember their prince, my brother and beloved one, martyr Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. We remember them all, those dear and beloved ones who fell on the road to the homeland. While running to our chaste land, they fell on the road so that their people might live. We remember all martyrs of the intifadah, our heroes who fell on the streets, in torture cells. We remember them. We will not forget them for one moment. We salute them as they dwell in the high places of paradise, with God, with the sincere lovers of truth and other martyrs. We pledge to them that the march will continue and that the torch of freedom and revolution will continue to glow.

O heroes in the occupation authorities' prisons, we also pledge to you that we will continue the march with firmness, resolve, and determination despite the inspissated wounds of our valiant wounded. It is the revolution, it is a creative revolutionary accumulation of struggle that turns darkness into light and illuminates the long and arduous path to the tunes of the steps of the struggler mujahidin—children, women, and men—inside and outside the homeland. Let us all, o my kinfolk and beloved ones, repeat the following: The pledge is the pledge and the oath is the oath. We have a date with victory, we have a date with dawn, we have a date with the beloved one, with the beloved homeland, with beloved Palestine.

O sons of our proud and courageous people, o sons of our proud and courageous people: We pause today, on the second anniversary of the outbreak of the intifadah, to draw the necessary lessons and conclusions. This historic event; namely, the outbreak of our blessed intifadah daily produces lessons, conclusions, courses of action, and even an exemplary revolutionary course to be emulated. The most important thing about this intifadah is that it has become a revolutionary course of action consecrated before the entire world during the past 2 years. The first of these lessons is that the valiant intifadah came as a peak in the march of the Palestinian struggle, which has not stopped for a moment since the beginning of this century. The intifadah is not a rootless plant as alleged by some of our enemies or some of the enemies in our region whom you know. No, it is the legitimate offspring which came from the womb of the revolution, from the womb of the contemporary Palestinian revolution whose 25th anniversary will, God willing, be celebrated a few days from now. During the period between the launching of the revolution and the outbreak of the intifadah, our people waged an extensive struggle, offered numerous sacrifices, and demonstrated exemplary epics of heroism.

O you masses of the blessed intifadah, you were the ones who provided the decisive, categorical, and unequivocal response. While making history with your blood, you were confirming that you were the loyal sons and soldiers of the Palestinian revolution. You showed solidarity with your heroic brothers in the Palestinian revolution in each area of struggle: In southern Lebanon, Sabra, Shatilah, Burj al-Barajinah, al-Rashidiyah, Tripoli, Beirut, the Jordan Valley, Mount Hermon, the Golan, and the Suez Canal. You were in total harmony with them, while upholding the PLO banner and its program, thus producing together this revolutionary song which reflects the noble descent of this great people.

It is the peak of struggle by people who decided to live free and soverign over their free independent soil. Yes, yes my brothers, it is the peak of struggle by people who decided to live free and sovereign over their free independent soil. The second lesson, brethren, is that the intifadah has transformed our people, revolution, and cause into a state of a strategic offensive. Transformed to what, brethren? Understand this. We are now in a state of strategic offensive, the comprehensive strategic offensive, not the offensive of the elite or vanugards; it is the offensive of the people, all the people. The intifadah has returned the Arab-Zionist conflict to its crux and basic challenge. It imposed on the occupiers and fascists the form of confrontation that is most suitable for us and most perplexing to them. The Palestinian people imposed their laws in terms of place and time when they took to the streets scoring epics of confrontation and when the sweeping current of the intifadah began to flow in all veins of the homeland. What did they impose? We imposed laws, we imposed laws on time and place. What is this epic we scored, brethren, this miracle we performed? It is that we imposed our laws on place and time. Our people carried out the largest operation of tipping the balance of power in their favor in their confrontation of the fascist occupiers when our elderly people, men, women, youth, and children rose to confront the modern U.S.-made arsenal of weapons of the Israeli Army with their sacred stones, (?bottles), chants, and cries. They scored one of the biggest epics of resistance in terms of its matchlessness and distinction in our contemporary age. This happened within the sight of the world whose attention was riveted by a mixture of surprise, admiration, and appreciation for this unique confrontation and by the power of the bare confident arms that believe in their right and in the justness of their cause despite the modern weapons stockpiled by the Zionist occupiers who are haunted by the ghosts of a mythical age—the age of what, brethren, the ghosts of which age? The mythical age about which they are still thinking. Wake up. Tell them, please, wake up. The intifadah, just like all major historical events, came at the right time and we had a date with history. It erupted at a moment that coincided with historic events that led to facts that reshape the map of our world. Pay attention, brethren, to the time in which this intifadah came. It came at this historic moment and, therefore, it will triumph, God willing, so that it will entrench in the mind

and conscience of the world the fact that there can be no peace, solution, or stability in this region except by achieving our people's national legitimate rights which were reognized by international legitimacy resolutions.

The third lesson, brothers, stems from our people's ability to give a unique example and a brilliant model of unlimited sacrifice and strict discipline. Over the past 2 years, all [words indistinct] foundered on the rock of immovable national steadfastness. Over the past 2 years, our people offered 1,000 martyrs and tens of thousands of wounded and detainees. They were subjected to the ugliest forms of repression, torture, and economic, supply, education, and information siege. Nevertheless, they continued their march strongly and loftily. Throughout the past 2 years, our people displayed their creative ability to devise all methods and forms of resistance. Whenever they devise something new for us, we devise three things in return. We told them let us wait and see and the mountain cannot be shaken by the wind. Yes, our people displayed their creative ability to devise all sorts of resistance methods and forms as well as an unlmited readiness to make sacrifices. Brave Gaza, which is suffering from hunger, repression, and deprivation is resisting, resisting, and resisting; it is resisting, resisting, resisting, and will resist until victory, God willing. [Greetings] to Nabulus, the mountain of fire, the mountain of pride, which is defying the invaders and occupiers and their persecution, fascisim, and crimes. To proud Bayt Sahur, which refuses humiliation, coercion, and the enemy authority and decisions, and which is asserting the authority of the people and evolution. To Jerusalem, which is defending the first of the two kiblahs and third holiest mosque, and Hebron, which is resisting forgery and confronting their lies. To Bethlehem, which is stoning, cursing, and giving a lesson to the Tel Aviv merchants in defense of its holy places. To struggling Rafah, struggling Janin, steadfast Tulkarm and Qalqilyah; to steadfast Khan Yunus, brave Jericho; to the revolutionary camps that are rising up to the peak of glory scoring epics and legends; to every village, town, city, suburb, street, valley, mountain, and farm, all of which are milestones of glory, might, and sacrifice. How great you are, my people! How great your sacrifice is! Yes, beloved ones, you, o cavaliers, have painted a dazzling picture and built a lofty edifice of a firmly entrenched national unity, a strong unity among Fatah, Hamas, the Popular [Front for the Liberation of Palestine], the Democratic [Front for the Liberation of Palestine], the Arab [Liberation Front], the Jihad, the communists, the [Popular] Struggle [Front], the Palestine Liberation [Front], the institutions, associations, societies, and trade unions. It is a unity that is impregnable against the plot that seeks to split, partition, and divide it. It is a unity expressing the cohesion of all sons of our people inside and outside the homeland in the melting pot of struggle and jihad under the leadership of your organization, the PLO. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Truly God loves those who fight in His cause in battle array, as if they are a solid cemented structure. [Koranic verse]

O heroes, in your exercise of the most splendid forms of discipline and in your compliance with the instructions and programs of the Unified National Leadership [of the Intifadah], you showed a high degree of maturity and unique sense of the awareness characterizing our people. That is why we scored one victory after another in all of our battles which sought to build the people's authority on the largest possible scale. Not only that, you also forced this authority's laws and rules as a substitute to the occupier's authority, which has begun to shake under the blows of our masses and strike forces. O courageous people in cities, camps, and villages, you have been working miracles and doing the impossible. The miraculous things previously perceived to be impossible have become ordinary and possible, thanks to your forcefulness and resolve. What have you been doing, o brothers? You have turned the miraculous and impossible into ordinary and possible activities. You have continued to dazzle the world with feats of heroism, demonstrating them as a daily way of life. You have continued, through your continuous struggle, to create on the homeland's soil facts and signs of a new reality that confirms that the removal of the occupation is inevitable and drawing closer. Nay, as I have previously said, every day you invent new creative revolutionary means to encircle the enemy, its hellish warmachine, and its immense capabilities. This enemy has always proven to be incapable of controlling and containing this revolutionary inventiveness, this militant creativity, and this jihad integration which are being displayed by these faithful and militant masses who are determined to continue the march and extricate victory, extricate victory, extricate victory, God willing, God willing, God willing.

A few days ago, we listened together to officials in the ruling Israeli establishment talking of expectations that the intifadah might continue for 1 or 2 or 3 more years. Are these people not the same officials who said during the first days of the intifadah that the intifadah are riots involving Palestinian mobs and that these riots will be contained within hours or days? At that time, we told them that the intifadah will continue for months and years until victory, until the Palestinian flag, God willing, is hoisted in Jerusalem. They are the same failing generals who used their banned weapons and the ugliest forms of torture and oppression to quell the torch of the intifadah. However, this torch struck them with its glow and becomes brighter with each strike. They are the same generals who continued to harbor delusions that it is possible to end the intifadah. For this reason, they drew up plans and programs to carry out this objective of theirs, thus blinding themselves to reality. They blinded themselves to the floodgates opened by the intifadah and to the upheaval created by this intifadah. This flood and this upheaval are making their impact felt in the region and the entire world. They have chosen not to see the facts. They want to remain the way they are: Hiding their eyes like ostriches. Okay, they are most welcome to the challenge. We will continue to defy them, and time will show the conquerer. As we have said, we are like a mountain that will not be rocked by the winds.

O brothers, beloved ones, knights of the intifadah, guardians of our sacred dream, heroes in the Unified National Leadership, knights of the strike forces, our new generals: Throughout the march of the intifadah, you have shown wisdom, maturity, and the highest levels of awareness, responsibility, and ability to derive initiatives from the masses. You have managed to turn the [intifadah leadership's] calls into a constitution and way of life. You have raised the appropriate and suitable slogans for promoting the intifadah in accordance with circumstances and events. Through your struggle and strikes at the enemy forces and targets, you have demonstrated a strong and genuine national unity. You have given a complete, bright, and practical image of integrated revolutionary roles and constituted a challenge to the Zionist occupiers—a challenge they can escape only when they leave, leave, leave our beloved land.

O heroes, wherever you are, o revolutionaries inside and outside our occupied homeland: You are paving the way for the rebirth of a free homeland for a free people over a sacred and blessed land. O brave children, women, men, and young men; o female and male strugglers in popular committees, o popular associations for women, workers, youths, students, professionals, academicians, farmers, merchants, craftsmen, and landlords: Glory to you while building the new Palestinian society, glory to you while offering humanity a distinguished experience in giving and innovation, and glory to you while making our beautiful homeland more beautiful and joyful while establishing the authority of the people through various organizations and institutions. Glory, all glory, to you while materializing the State of Palestine on the soil of Palestine. And another favor will He bestow, which you do love, help from God and a speedy victory. So give the glad tidings to the believers. [Koranic verse]

O brothers, beloved ones, knights of the intifadah; o brave ones in the prisons of the fascists, o eagles in Ansar, Junayd, Gaza, Ashqelon, Beersheba, Nabulus, Nafha, Tulkarm, Ramallah, Hebron, Shattah, al-Ramun, Ramla, Kafar Yuna, Janin, al-Maskubiyah, and in every prison and detention camp in our beloved, imprisoned land: You have paved the way by your struggle and incredible steadfastness. Glory to you while turning prisons into new militant positions, and turning them into genuine revolutionary hotbeds. Amity, greetings, and admiration to our wounded heroes while weaving legends of glory out of your wounds.

O masses of the valiant intifadah, o great Palestinian people, o great Arab nation. While at the threshold of the 3d year of the intifadah, the Palestinian phoenix is more resolved, more determined, and more capable. On this historic day, we declare to the entire world that the intifadah will continue, with God's help, and will not cease or calm down before the departure of the last Israeli soldier from our beloved country. We tell the misguided pillars of the ruling establishment in Israel that the PLO is the indispensable and basic figure in the Middle East equation. I repeat: There will be no solution, stability, or peace before the achievement of the Palestinian people's national inalienable rights, headed by the right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

The Israeli leadership will not be able to cover the shining truth with the fingers of their hands or by burying their heads in sand like an ostrich. Our political program announced by our National Council in Algiers has been supported by UN Resolution No 176, the EEC Madrid declaration, the socialist states Bucharest statement, the statement of the Scandinavian foreign ministers, the stand of friendly China, Japan's new stand, the constant stands of the Islamic and African states, the clear nonaligned Belgrade summit resolutions supporting the Palestine question, the Arab Algiers and Casablanca resolutions supporting the intifadah, the current developments in Eastern Europe, and the international detente entrenched in Malta. [words indistinct] The sweeping current of truth will remove those who cannot deal with it. Those who do not wish to see the bright Palestinian truth which has gone deep into the world conscience will be stunned by this truth and will be thrown into the trashcan of history. Yes, they will be thrown into the trashcan of history.

In the 3d year of the intifadah, my beloved ones and brothers, let us deal more blows to the occupation authorities and organs. Let us enforce the authority of the people through their popular committees. In the 3d year of the intifadah, let us enhance initiatives to rebuild the national economy by adopting home economy, the reclamation of lands, and encouraging the return to farming. On the 3d year of the intifadah, let us escalate boycott of the occupation and its organs, laws, taxes, orders, and commodities. The dawn is imminent. In the 3d year of the intifadah, let our masses assert their control of the streets of their cities, villages, and camps through demonstrations and sit-ins. In the 3d year, let your blows be stronger and more painful for the sake of beloved Palestine.

O masses of the valiant intifadah, o guardians of independence, o our entire people: The dawn is imminent. The victory is imminent. The Palestinian state is within a stone's throw—the stone of the children of Palestine. God made it but a message of hope for you, and an assurance to your hearts: There is no help except from God, the exalted, the wise. [Koranic verse]
Your Brother: Abu-'Ammar.

Sa'id Muragha's Intifadah Anniversary Address

JN1012195289 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Address by Sa'id Musa Muragha, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Musa, "secretary of the Palestine National Liberation Movement—Fatah," on the Palestinian intifadah 2d anniversary—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Brother citizens, o sons of our people in the steadfast homeland, o masses of Palestine who are staging their intifadah against the Zionist invaders: Today, your great intifadah enters its 3d year, while you stand at the peak of your sacrifice, proving the firmness of your resolve and confirming to the whole world that the sons of Palestine have chosen struggle as the only means to defend their homeland and achieve their objectives.

O you who have launched this great intifadah to confirm your decisive rejection of coexistence with occupation; to trample under the feet of your children, women, and youth all enemies' plots—with their different names and titles—in defense of national identity against ignorance; to bolster the Palestinian people's presence in a manner demonstrating the impossibility of canceling or annihilating them; and to reject the enemy's violation of our people's rights on their soil. [passage omitted]

The participation of all active forces in the battle of liberation, in the valiant intifadah and under its banner—the banner of struggle against the [Zionist] entity to foil its plots—is a great lesson, which must be used to unify the forces of the people and struggle. In the battle of the challenge and direct confrontation against the enemy, you embody the real national unity. All of us—especially those whose resolve became too weak to confront the enemies—must learn that national unity, and the unity of people, cause, land, and destiny, can be achieved by continuing to face the enemy and by opposing its schemes, invading troops, and racist settlers.

Your resolution of confrontation has created new forms of struggle against the enemy. The enemy, which is armed to teeth with weapons of murder and destruction and with all techniques of terrorism, has failed to suppress you. You have proved that, with your determination, everything in this sacred Palestinian land can be transformed into a weapon against the enemy to foil the policy of the racist fist and to roll those who advocate it in the mud. And, let us all foil the Shamir plan, the conspiratorial Husni Mubarak plan, and the imperialist Baker plan; and let us tell all of them: To hell with you, and to hell with your wager that the Palestinian, who is born under occupation, can forget his cause. Here is this generation inheriting from the fathers and forefathers the determination for revolution and continuous struggle to confirm that Palestine belongs to its people, that it is an Arab land, and that its liberation is inevitable, God willing. [passage omitted]

Whenever a martyr falls, your spirit of challenge and continuing the struggle gets stronger. However, what is even more dangerous than the enemy's tyranny and oppression is the danger from those who claim to represent your determination, who kneel before the enemies, and who advocate a deal with them at the expense of the blood of the martyrs of the revolution and intifadah and at the expense of the cause, the land, the people, and the nation.

Our confidence in your determination and awareness makes us certain that you will be able to distinguish between the barren and the fruitful, the good and the evil, and what is in your interest and what will serve the enemy's. You do not need to be reminded that our people's history and struggles show that the enemy would have never succeeded in their plans were it not for the participation of misguided and selfish groups in the conspiracy with the enemy against the people. The enemies in Washington and Tel Aviv—through those who claim to represent the people of Palestine and who are in collusion with them—are seeking to liquidate your intifadah and prevent it from making achievements through the great sacrifices that you have made.

O, our great people, from the heart of suffering you have created miracles and said no to occupation. You have dealt a strong blow to the renegades who claim to be Arabs, but who connive against your cause and the causes of the nation. Your intifadah dealt a strong painful blow to the Amman summit and the masters of its leaders. You have thus demonstrated a revolutionary course of action against what is proposed by the symbols of the course of treachery and capitulation who took part in that summit, falsely, on behalf of Palestine, and who were not satisfied with only conceding the national principles, but declared their abandonment of the revolution, the land, and the unity of the cause and people.

We are confident that your sacrifices and our people's struggles will never form the bridge over which they can pass to commit their treasons and conspiracies. The intifadah's first martyr—Talib Muhammad 'Abdallah Abu-Zayd—did not sacrifice his life for the sake of liquidatory solutions; nor did the revolution's first martyr in 1965—Ahmad Musa—who illuminated with his blood the path of liberation and crossing over to the homeland. [passage omitted]

PFLP Statement Urges Escalation of Intifadah

JN1112183989 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] On the intifadah's 2d anniversary, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] issued a political statement in which it urges all groups of the Palestinian people to march forward in the giant intifadah, and to escalate and entrench it. It also calls for countering the savage Zionist violence with organized revolutionary violence.

PLO's Al-Najjab on Egypt's Reply to Baker Plan

JN1112163889 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 9 Dec 89 p 21

["Exclusive" to AL-WATAN]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab has said that the Palestinian leadership is fully aware of attempts to draw it into the trap of concessions "simply because the PLO has no right to abandon itself."

The Palestinian leader was speaking to AL-WATAN following Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's announcement that Egypt had consulted with the PLO before approving U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan to hold a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. Al-Najjab added: People who believe that the spread of such reports will weaken the Palestinian people's determination to restore their right to liberation and national independence must be reminded of the fact that the brave intifadah is entering its 3d year more determined to protect the Palestinian people's great political achievements and gains and to continue their struggle until they liberate their homeland and achieve their national independence.

Al-Najjab explained that the PLO's reply to Baker's plan, which was officially announced by Washington several days ago, was conveyed to the U.S. Administration through Egypt and U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia Robert Pelletreau. He said that the reply affirms the PLO's support for a serious dialogue with the Israeli Government to prepare for an international conference to bring about a comprehensive solution based on international law and UN resolutions and "we will never accept a dialogue to implement Shamir's project—as called for by Baker's plan—or accept the trusteeship of any side, or allow any side to enter into a dialogue aimed at nullifying the PLO." Therefore, al-Najjab said, the agenda of the proposed dialogue with Israel should be open, the dialogue should be attended by permanent Security Council member states, and the only side that can announce and name the Palestinian delegation is the PLO.

Al-Najjab said that the nervous reply from the U.S. State Department confirms that Washington expected a different reply [from Egypt] and that Washington is still trying to paralyze the PLO and is searching for Palestinians with false credentials to hold a dialogue with them. The State Department spokesman had said that the PLO's reply to Baker's plan "does not concern the U.S. Administration." The Palestinian official also said that the PLO categorically rejects any role for Israel or others in forming the Palestinian delegation "and we do not know the basis on which the Egyptian Government has accepted Baker's plan" and "what is important is our firm and clear-cut position, that no side can ignore it, and that any attempt to overlook the PLO will fail because the PLO is the only side that represents the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied land."

Al-Najjab also said that this is the position of the Palestinian people, the Arab and Islamic summits, the nonaligned countries, the Warsaw Pact countries, the EEC countries, the United Nations, and the world, except the United States and Israel.

The PLO Executive Committee member urged the Arab countries to take a clear-cut position like that of the Palestinians, to abide by and respect the resolutions of the Casablanca summit, and to use their weight to implement the Arab peace initiative approved by that summit. He added that the aggressive U.S. and Israeli position against the PLO is due to their rejection of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Hawatimah on Dialogue, Peace Moves

JN1112175289 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 9 Dec 89 p 17

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine by Marwan Hazin in Kuwait on 5 December]

[Excerpts] [Hawatimah] [passage omitted] As for us, it was obvious from the start that the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue would not work wonders in a short period. We are aware of the U.S. approach to liberation movements in the world. It has emerged that the United States continues to insist on confining the dialogue to mutual soundings and refuses to upgrade it to the level of recognizing the representative status of the PLO and our people's right to self-determination as well as the need for an international, comprehensive settlement to the Middle East crisis. A full year after the dialogue began, the United State is still looking for an alternative representative of the Palestinian people. The most recent case in point was the U.S.-Israeli elections proposal and the low-key U.S. promotion of Egypt's 10 points and more recently, the Baker plan. All this is being done within the context of finding a substitute for the PLO. Hence the dialogue has not budged toward giving recognition to the representative status of the PLO. Even the contacts concerning Baker's first and second amended plan is being made by proxy rather than through direct contacts with the PLO. This is to avoid the appearance that the UNited States has accepted the representative status of the PLO and in order to avert Israel's anger. And despite the modest results of the dialogue with the United States, we still want it to continue.

We have discussed among ourselves within the Palestinian leadership the need for energizing the direct American-Palestinian dialogue. We have emphasized the need to urge the United States to address the PLO on everything relating to the Palestinian national issue and the Middle East crisis, rather than marginalizing and sidelining the PLO by addressing it through the Egyptian channel and sometimes the Swedish channel. Talking thus, by proxy, will not help upgrade the dialogue toward recognizing the representative capacity of the PLO or end the practice of talking in this roundabout fashion. The Americans recourse to roundabout routes constitutes greater pressure on the PLO to achieve what they have failed to achieve in four rounds of dialogue. I would like pressure to be applied on the United States by the Palestinians, the Arabs, and the world until it recognizes the representative capacity of the PLO and stops searching for Palestinian representatives from outside the PLO. We want Arab and international pressure to lead the United States to recognize that a solution to the Middle East crisis must be internationally sponsored and within the framework of in a UN- sponsored conference

grouping all the parties to the conflict, includuding the PLO and the five permanent members of the Security Council. Whatever solution worked out will have to be comprehensive, rather than partial as the U.S. Administration and Israel want.

[Hazin] Are we to understand from what you say and recent developments that Egypt is applying pressure on the PLO? What does Egypt want from the PLO, and why does the PLO accept Egypt's role? What do you stand to lose from discontinuing the dialogue with the United States, as it does not seem to be producing results?

[Hawatimah] Talking to the PLO via Egypt stems from the U.S. perception of a special Egyptian role that harks back to 1978. Furthermore, the United States uses a network of economic, military, and political relations with Cairo as levers of pressure to counterbalance the Palestinian peace offensive as well as to have Egypt put pressure on the PLO. On our part, we reckon that by virtue of the special relationship between Egypt and the United States, some pressure may be invested in our interests. The turn of events and developments, however, do not seem to point toward this desired end. On the contrary, we feel that under American pressure, the Egyptians are moving so as to accommodate American proposals and to incline to the Shamir plan and the projected Israeli-U.S. elections.

[Hazin] Right from the beginning of the dialogue with the United States, we have been in a vicious circle of questions and answers with no progress to speak of. All the United States is after is to strip the PLO of its representative capacity and buy time for Israel to put down the intifadah. You have rejected the American response to the most recent question you put to Washington through the Egyptians—a response that envisaged an invisible role for the PLO in the proposed Israeli-Palestinian talks. Why doesn't the PLO move more actively on the European front where there has been some positive, albeit insufficient, movement?

[Hawatimah] I would first like to make the point that the people of the intifadah led by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah and its popular committees and strike forces have from the outset made clear through the intifadah calls that the PLO is their sole, legitimate representative, with the result that all attempts at driving a wedge between the inside and outside have failed. Palestinians in the inside have insisted on the exclusive character of PLO representation of the Palestinians. Moreover, armed with historical experience and national unity, our people can never allow American and Israeli maneuvers to marginalize the PLO. I am confident that the PLO will not yield to pressure and let itself be sidelined. The most recent American message stated brazenly that the PLO's is an invisible role, and that the most it can do is to approve Baker's plan and make it easy for Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and maybe one or two expellees to talk to the Israeli Government about the election plan and Shamir's project. This means that the PLO would give the go-ahead for these Palestinian figures and provide a list of names to the Egyptian Government which would in turn propose them for the Israeli Government and the United States. Then the foreign ministers of the three countries would meet to shortlist them and look into their credentials, and then decide on their acceptability or otherwise. In other words, they will decide on the formation of the Palestinian delegation. The American message says Israel has the right to object to sitting down with whomever it does not approve of, and that the United States cannot put pressure on Israel. In other words, Israel would have a veto over the composition of the Palestinain delegation. The Americans want the Palestinian delegation's makeup to satisfy Israel's demands, and thus the PLO would remain out of the picture throughout the process to negotiate Shamir's elections proposal. The PLO will never go along with this kind of arrangement. Over the past 4 weeks, the Palestinian leadership has unanimously turned down this scenario and declared its adherence to the resolutions of the PLO's Central Council. These were adopted unanimously and in effect reject Baker's plan in its pro-Israel bias. The PLO is amenable to any plans founded on the five points stipulated by the Central Council. This much has been recognized by the overwhelming majority of the countries of the world with the exception of the United States and Israel. It is inconceivable that the PLO should fall into the trap of self-destruction set by the Baker plan and the explanatory letters we have received through third parties. [passage omitted]

[Hazin] Is an imminent Syrian-Palestinian thaw likely through a meeting in Algiers or Damascus?

[Hawatimah] I have no accurate information about any imminent meeting. However, the subject of relations between Syria and the PLO came up during the Baghdad Central Council sessions. There was a consensus on the need to resume contacts with the Syrians. [passage omitted]

Egypt

President Mubarak To Visit Libya 12 Dec

NC1112174889 Paris AFP in English 1655 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, Dec 11 (AFP)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will travel Tuesday to Libya for talks with leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in the second such summit in three months, reliable Egyptian sources said here Monday.

Mr. Mubarak and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi met on two consecutive days in September in Egypt and in Libya for talks that raised hopes for a resumption of diplomatic ties between their two countries.

Libya and Syria are the only two members of the Arab League which still refuse to forgive Egypt for signing a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, and continue to maintain no diplomatic ties with Cairo.

After their September summit, Mr. Mubarak and Col. al-Qadhdhafi agreed on a series of steps to boost bilateral cooperation although planned follow-up committees have yet to be formed. [passage omitted]

Cairo-Damascus Air Traffic To Resume 12 Dec

NC1112123089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1223 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 11 Dec (MENA)—MENA has learned that President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad have agreed to resume air traffic between Egypt and Syria as of tomorrow, Tuesday.

President Mubarak has issued instructions to the relevant authorities to start operating the air route between Cairo and Damascus immediately.

MENA has also learned that President Mubarak will send a personal envoy to President al-Asad in the next few days to convey his excellency's views on a number of issues and matters that concern the two fraternal countries.

This came about during a telephone call that President Mubarak made to President al-Asad this afternoon.

In recent remarks to the Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS, the Syrian president stressed that the severance of relations with Egypt is not in the Arabs' interest. He also said that he cannot accept, as an Arab citizen, that there forever be an estrangement between Egypt and Syria. The Syrian president also described President Mubarak's approaches as good and said: We complement each other.

'Abd-al-Majid on Arab League, Workers in Iraq

NC0812172789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1404 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Tunis, 8 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has asserted that Egypt rejects any modification of the Arab League Charter. He noted that Egypt will accept only the introduction of addenda to the charter that contain required changes but do not affect the original charter. He disclosed that he has conveyed this view to the Arab League secretary general.

Answering questions from members of the Egyptian community during their meeting with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi last night, 'Abd- al-Majid called for developing rather than amending the Arab League Charter to leave its substance unaffected.

'Abd-al-Majid spoke about the Arab League Secretariat. He said that its status in Egypt is governed by law and by the authority vested in the foreign minister to supervise the Secretariat in Cairo with assets of the League available in Egypt. He asserted that this situation will not change and that neither the assets and the secretariat in Cairo nor the interests of the Egyptians and others working at the Secretariat in Egypt will be affected until an agreement has been reached with Egypt.

He said this stand has been conveyed to the Arab League secretary general and emphasized Egypt's desire to take care of the League's Egyptian employees. He remarked that preference for employment at the League must be given to the best qualified personnel, adding that it is not a problem if a better qualified non-Egyptian works at the League.

He said: We deal with these problems quietly to avoid any crisis between us and any fraternal Arab country. He noted that Egypt will take whatever steps may be necessary because it will demand its rights.

He expressed hope that Egypt's civilized approach would be reciprocated.

Replying to a question, 'Abd-al-Majid described Egypt's stand on the issue of the Arab League headquarters as principled. He pointed out that when he attended the Arab foreign ministers council meeting last September, he expressed his pleasure over attending the meeting at the Arab League temporary headquarters in Tunis. He noted that the Baghdad summit termed this headquarters "temporary."

He pointed out that Article 10 of the Arab League Charter is explicit in stipulating that the Arab League permanent headquarters is in Cairo and that the Tunis headquarters is temporary. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the issue of Egyptian workers in Iraq, he said this has aroused controversy in Egypt, both in the Consultative Council and in the People's Assembly, and noted that there have been mistakes on both sides.

He said: The Egyptians abroad are not angels, and we do not ask them to behave like angels. On the other hand, we demand that they be treated properly and well and that if any of them errs, he be brought to account as we do with any foreigner working in Egypt.

'Abd-al-Majid asserted at the same time that Egypt's ties with Iraq are very important and strategic. Evidence of this, he said, is that Egypt supported Iraq when the Iraq-Iran war broke out, at a time when Iraq was leading the clamor against Egypt, adding that this displayed the Egyptian leadership's prudence.

He noted that the Egyptian stand was honorable, as Egypt supported Iraq and supplied it with much-needed arms. These are facts, and this is the Egyptian way of dealing with others, he said.

He pointed out that Egypt is eager to defend the rights of its citizens.

Abu-Ghazalah Departs for UN Session on Apartheid

NC1012163889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Abu-Ghazalah, assistant to the president, left Cairo for New York today leading Egypt's delegation to the UN General Assembly special session to discuss apartheid in South Africa, which will open on Tuesday. The Egyptian delegation includes Dr Samir Safwat, adviser to the president; and Dr Hasan Jad al-Haq, director of the Africa department at the Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister, Delegation Return From Tunis

NC0812224889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2235 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and the delegation accompanying him returned to Cairo from Tunis this evening. Dr Sidqi had chaired the Egyptian delegation to the first session of the joint Egyptian-Tunisian higher committee.

Libya

Egyptian President Mubarak Arrives in Sirte

NC1212095789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0933 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] Sirte, Libya, 12 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in the Libyan city of Sirte at 1015 Cairo time today at the beginning of a visit to Libya.

Mubarak, Al-Qadhdhafi Talks Begin

NC1212111789 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] The summit talks between President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, began in Sirte in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah today.

The two leaders will discuss ways to enhance cooperation between the two sisterly countries in various fields, as well as plans to implement the agreements signed by the two countries in Tobruk last October.

Mubarak arrived at Sirte air base at 1000 today at the head of a delegation. He was received by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and senior Libyan officials.

President Mubarak was accorded an official welcome. Col al- Qadhdhafi then escorted President Mubarak to the main hall of the air base, where Mubarak stated that he is pleased with his visit to sister Libya. He added that the visit is part of the process of coordination and exchange of information in various fields of interest to both countries.

Official Spokesman Rebuts Habre Allegations

LD1112152489 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Dec (JANA)—The French newspaper LE MONDE yesterday—8 December 1989—published an interview with [Chadian] President Habre in which he, as always, repeated his allegations and accusations against the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

In reply to a question from JANA on the utterances of President Habre, an official spokesman of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation said:

The statement of President Habre proves categorically that he has lost his balance following his ignominious defeat at the hands of the forces of the Chadian opposition in the region of the Sudanese-Chadian border. Thus, he has once again begun repeating allegations that everyone knows are false.

We have accustomed ourselves not to bother with replying, for everyone in and outside Africa is aware of the truth, which President Habre now and again tries to bend. However, it may be useful to clarify the following:

First: The allegations made by President Habre to LE MONDE on 8 December 1989 have been repeated by him before; they are false and without any foundation. In this regard, we recall the statement issued by the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation on 4 November 1889.

Second: We know, as well as others, that the aim behind President Habre's statements is to conceal the reality of the Chadian internal situation and the rising revolution against his tribal system and to try to mislead the world and African opinion that there is no new opposition on the side of the groups of the already existing opposition and by forgetting that the opposition now working in the west of Sudan is the one that brought him to Ndjamena.

Third: President Habre believes that by making random accusations against the Libyan Arab people, the fraternal Chadian people will forget the crimes of murder and assassination practiced by the regime in Ndjamena, but the people cannot be deceived.

Fourth: The brother leader clearly announced the Jamahiriyah's stand on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the creation of the OAU. This stand has been put into practice, and the Algiers agreement signed between Libya and Chad on 31 August 1989 was one of its results. Regrettably, the Chadian regime's stand remains noncommittal to the implementation of this agreement.

Fifth: Habre's clever statement during this interview that the war is not yet over and that the French forces should be kept in Chad is categorical proof of President Habre's thoughts and schemes of escalating the situation and of shunning the implementation of the Algiers agreement, which set the framework for the resolution of all the pending problems. The great Jamahiriyah reiterates once again its attachment to this agreement out of respect for its commitments, but it will, in any case, take the necessary measures should the Chadian side persevere in its ignorance of its commitments as stipulated by this agreement.

Sudan

Junta To Proceed With Implementation of Shari'a

EA1012185389 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Dec 89

[From the Press review]

[Text] AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH stated: The revolution endeavors to implement federalism and will not wait for anybody, says Colonel al-Khalifah. The revolution will not (?hear) the Western or rebels' plans that object to the implementation of shari'a. We will set up committees to follow up the national dialogue conference resolutions and staff reconstruction of the south.

SPLA Denounces Government Decision on Shari'a

AB0812214589 Paris AFP in French 1637 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Nairobi, 8 Dec (AFP)—The decision of the Sudanese military junta to give freedom to the courts to apply the shari'a (fundamental law) constitutes a "step backward." Major Lam Akol, the leader of the delegation of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), today made this statement to AFP.

The junta that overthrew the government of former President Ja'afar al-Numayri had suspended the application of the shari'a. Abrogation of that law was one of the major conditions of the SPLA for peace in southern Sudan.

The recent decision by the current government, according to the assistant to Colonel John Garang, means that the situation is "more serious than had been expected" when it was still believed that "the government was determined to achieve peace."

Things have been "aggravated" by the decision, the SPLA second-in-command added. Maj Lam Akol said the previous day that the town of Waat, held by the rebel Army since April, had been bombed on 5 December.

Abrogation of the shari'a was one of the major demands of the SPLA delegation during the recent Sudanese peace talks, which failed on 5 December in Nairobi.

SPLA Says Junta Obstructed Nairobi Peace Talks

EA0912174389 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Excerpts] We comment on the Nairobi talks: Why has it failed?

The breakdown of the 5 days of talks in Nairobi between the SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] and the junta left the Sudanese public pointing a finger to the party that obstructed achievement of peace in the country—'Umar al-Bashir's junta. The junta's delegation to the talks rejected all the key questions in the talks. The junta toured the globe in sheer pretense that it was seeking support for its one-sided peace program, when in fact the junta was knocking at the doors of every Arab country begging for arms.

When the Nairobi talks were convened, the Sudanese public and world community were eager for its success, but the junta blocked it by considering the very necessary bases for peace as nothing more than procedures to the peace process. This evidently reveals the junta's shallow and distorted perception of the nature of the central problem of the Sudan—that it calls over and over again the southern problem—could in no way lead the junta to take the steps for peace. [sentence as heard] By bluntly rejecting the key issues of the peace process to which the SPLM/SPLA and all the political forces in the Sudan agreed, Brig 'Umar al-Bashir's junta cannot be taken seriously. The junta's shortsightedness and self-conceit that the Sudanese public must accept its fundamentalist peace idea is an illusion which can only add insult to injury. 'Umar al-Bashir dreams of establishing a theocratic state in the Sudan. The junta's pseudo-peace maneuvers are nothing short of an [word indistinct] to blindfold the Sudanese public and international community.

The reactionary position taken by the junta on peace can be further confirmed by repressive measures it has imposed on the Sudanese [words indistinct] let 'Umar al-Bashir know that the Sudanese people cannot be obstructed from their struggle for liberty by clubs and bullets he is now using on students. This civil disobedience by trade unions and student demonstrations are the expression of the Sudanese public desire for liberty and progress.

The junta's retrogression and wishful thinking can only perpetuate the war in the country. The junta's flagrant conception of peace was analyzed by the SPLM/SPLA leader Comrade John Garang de Mabior in the speech to the Sudanese people on 14th August. [passage omitted]

Indeed, the junta took over power to perpetuate the war and to tread on the political forces in the country, which 'Umar al-Bashir thinks will give him the grounds to entrench his archaic fundamentalist regime. The very fact that the junta has come out to aggravate the situation in the country could be evidently seen by 'Umar al-Bashir's announcement at the very moment peace talks were taking place in Nairobi that he will wipe out the SPLA and return all the towns under SPLA hands. This declaration of war by 'Umar al-Bashir leaves a vacuum in believing the junta's claimed commitment to peace.

'Umar al-Bashir should know that no amount of brutality could prevent the Sudanese people from their struggle for liberty. The junta's brutality must be met with fierce resistance. We call on the trade unions to continue their civil disobedience to paralyze the junta. The junta has shown (?the face) of atrocity by mass arrests and killings of students, arbitrarily arresting the medical doctors, university lecturers and (?thus) accusing them of plotting against the state. The junta has now pointed its atrocious finger at the students. We would like to tell Brig 'Umar al-Bashir that his junta will soon reap civil unrest in the towns and cities.

UN Official Denies Relief Convoy Attacked

EA1212090889 Nairobi KENYA TIMES in English 11 Dec 89 p 4

[By Daniel Kamanga]

[Excerpts] The logistics officer of the United Nations' Lifeline Sudan Operation, Mr George Deny, yesterday denied press reports that several of the operation's Kenyan truck drivers were killed when their trucks were caught in a cross-fire in the war-torn southern Sudan.

Police at the Lodwar police station—about 300 kilometres from the Kenya-Sudan border—also denied any knowledge of the incident as reported by the "SUNDAY STANDARD."

According to the newspaper's lead story, 20 Kenyan truck drivers were feared dead after being trapped in the pitched battle between units of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the forces of the ruling military junta. [passage omitted]

However, Mr Deny denied that the operation's trucks had been caught in a cross-fire. He told the "KENYA TIMES" that "the operation's activities have been going on smoothly without any incidents despite resumed fighting".

Nairobi, he said, was fully informed on what was taking place. "We are not aware that our trucks have been caught in a cross-fire," he said. "If such a thing happened, we would be the first to tell you".

Apparently, the "SUNDAY STANDARD" story was pegged to a letter written by a "survivor," Mr Ali Said Sheikh, in which he described the incident as one "that cannot be adequately related in words".

Lodwar police said they were not aware of the incident. An inspector told the "KENYA TIMES" that since fighting between the SPLA and forces of the ruling military junta "no such incidence has been reported to us".

Mr Deny also pointed out that no incidents had been reported since fighting resurfaced following the collapse of peace talks in Nairobi. "I can confirm to you that our trucks have not been involved in such an incident," he said, adding that "such reports tend to jeopardise our efforts".

He told the "KENYA TIMES" that in the last six weeks, the operation's convoys had been going to Yei (in southern Sudan) and back to Kenya.

Mr Deny, was however, hesitant in concluding that such an incident never actually took place. "What I know is that our convoy was not involved. I have no information on any other incident".

Ethiopian Refugees 'Pouring Into' East

EA0612122589 Khartoum SUNA in English 0925 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum, 5th December (SUNA)—A new influx of Ethiopian refugees has started pouring into the east of the country. The first wave includes 1,500 persons, refugees commissioner 'Abd al-Rahman Sirr al-Khatim said.

Sirr al-Khatim said the Ethiopian refugees are heading for the Eastern Region capital of Kassala. He told the daily "AL-INQADH AL-WATANI" today that the influx was caused by the scarcity of rains in western Ethiopia and the failure of the agricultural season there. He said [word indistinct] are currently underway to take food to those people in their own areas.

The commissioner has meanwhile said there was only 20,000 Ugandan refugees in the south of the country. He said there was no influx of new refugees in the south of the country.

He said the recent campaign in the national capital, which is aiming to register the refugees in the country, has recorded 31,362 refugees, while registration is still going on in the eastern regions of the country.

Junta Envoy Departs for Japan, East Europe

EA0712192489 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Colonel Martin Malwal, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, left for Japan today, heading a delegation from the National Dialogue Conference on Peace. He is starting a tour that will also take him to China, Yugoslavia, and Romania. The visit is part of efforts to inform foreign countries about the policy of the National Salvation Revolution, in light of

the recommendations and resolutions of the National Dialogue Conference on Peace.

Tunisia

MENA Reports Tunisian-Egyptian Joint Communique

NC0812223189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Tunis, 8 Dec (MENA)—Egypt and Tunisia have reiterated their desire to enhance and develop bilateral cooperation in accordance with the directives of Presidents Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who decided at their meeting in Tunis last December to give a strong push to bilateral cooperation to realize the ambitions of both peoples.

The two sides exchanged congratulations on the establishment of the Arab Maghreb Union and the Arab Cooperation Council, which they regarded as an important step on the path of joint Arab action to realize the goals of Arab unity in accordance with the Arab League Charter.

In a joint communique issued this evening at the conclusion of the first session of the joint higher committee, the two countries voiced full support for the intifadah of the Palestinian people, which is entering its 3d year, and their heroic resistance of the Israeli occupation.

The two sides appealed to world powers and international public opinion to force Israel to respect human rights and put an end to the inhumane repressive measures against the Palestinian people.

In the communique, Egypt praised the wise policy of the PLO leadership and noted the significant diplomatic gains it has achieved at the international level.

The two sides renewed their support for ongoing efforts to reach a just, lasting, and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian problem which would allow the Palestinian people to achieve their legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination, to establish an independent state, and to live in freedom, peace, and security.

Egypt and Tunisia also expressed support for continued peace efforts in an international framework under UN supervision and with the equal participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO.

The two sides also expressed satisfaction with the positive developments in Lebanon. They appealed to Lebanese and international parties to support President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, as well as all the Lebanese parliamentarians who are making efforts to implement the national accord charter reached in al-Ta'if to preserve Lebanon's Arab identity and maintain the unity of the people and the sovereignty of the country.

The two sides also agreed on the need to redouble efforts to turn the cease-fire agreement reached by the parties to the Gulf war into a comprehensive peaceful solution on the basis of the full implementation of UN Resolution 598.

The Egyptian and the Tunisian sides agreed to continue coordination between the two countries within the framework of the OAU, in order to strengthen the organization and assert its role in serving liberation and development causes on the continent.

The Tunisian side reiterated its confidence that President Mubarak's wise leadership of the OAU will enhance peace and cooperation among African countries and peoples.

The two countries agreed that President Mubarak's efforts to resolve the existing dispute between Senegal and Mauritania must continue within the framework of the Addis Ababa subcommittee. They appealed to the two countries to respond to these positive efforts and work to normalize their relations as soon as possible.

Egypt and Tunisia condemned apartheid in South Africa and reiterated their support for Namibia's wish to join the OAU and the United Nations as an independent state, expressing the hope that this will be achieved in the near future.

They also expressed interest in joint action to revive Arab-African cooperation.

The Egyptian and Tunisian sides welcomed French President Francois Mitterrand's call to hold an Arab-European ministerial meeting before the end of this year. They renewed their committment to the basis and principles of the Nonaligned Movement and expressed their support for the five-party initiative on the issue of foreign debt and the North-South dialogue, which President Mubarak helped formulate and present to the international community.

The Egyptian side expressed support for President Ben Ali's initiative at the United Nations in which he called for reaching a formula for North-South peace and progress within the UN framework.

The two sides expressed pleasure over the positive developments in international relations and their support for international detente. They stressed the hope that the curbing of the arms race in developed countries will allow these countries to redouble their interest in Third World development and the Third World's right to a more balanced and just international economic order.

Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi extended an invitation to Tunisian Prime Minister Hammed Karoui to pay an official visit to Egypt. Dr Karoui accepted the invitation, leaving the date of the visit to diplomatic quarters.

Bahrain

Iraq's 'Izzat Ibrahim Conducts Visit to Manama

Received by Amir

JN1112142089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 11 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman al-Khalifah, the prime minister, received here today 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council in Iraq, currently on a visit to Bahrain.

'Izzat Ibrahim conveyed to his excellency the Bahraini amir the greetings of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and his wishes of progress and prosperity for Bahrain. During the meeting, they reviewed the distinguished relations between the two countries and developments in the Gulf and Arab arenas, as well as the issues of mutual concern. [passage omitted]

Signs Noninterference Agreement

JN1212114689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 12 Dec (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain and Iraq today signed an agreement of noninterference in each other's domestic affairs and the nonuse of force by either side.

Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah signed the agreement for the Bahraini side, and Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim signed it for the Iraqi side. [passage omitted]

Confers With Prime Minister

JN1212125489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1028 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 12 Dec (WAKH)—An official session of talks was held today between His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, and 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council, who is currently visiting Bahrain.

During this session, the two sides resumed discussion of the talks they held yesterday on bilateral relations, the current developments in the Arab and Gulf arenas, and issues of common interest.

WAKH has learned that the talks revealed that the two sides' viewpoints were identical on several current Arab issues, and that the Bahraini and Iraqi sides agreed to promote cooperation between the two countries. [passage omitted]

PDRY

Central Committee Welcomes Results of Summit

EA1212074789 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] The Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee has welcomed the results of the Aden Summit as constituting a national document of historic importance and as being on the level of great achievements and qualitative transformations in the march of the Yemeni people's development.

In the press communique of its 18th extraordinary session, held 10-11 December under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, the Central Committee expressed its full support for the historic Aden agreement. It stressed the importance of its precise implementation, of acting to refer the subject of the constitution of the unified state to the legislative authorities of the two parts of the homeland, and of holding a referendum on it. It also stressed the importance of completing the work of the committee on a unified political organization during the period fixed for that, as well as completing the work of the rest of the unification committees before ratification of the constitution by the two legislative authorities of the two parts.

The Central Committee approved the right to implement a multiparty system within the framework of the constitution, and on the bases and objectives of the glorious 26 September and 14 October revolutions. The Central Committee charged the Political Bureau with drawing up basic guidelines for the law on parties.

The communique appealed to the masses of the people and all the national democratic forces to unite their ranks and activate their roles in, and contributions to, political life to achieve continuous success toward hastening the unification of the homeland, the spread of democracy, and ensuring the cultural progress of the Yemeni people.

The Central Committee stressed the importance of preparing the national and political atmosphere throughout Yemen, and in this regard, it charged the Political Bureau with taking steps aimed at reinstating [radd al-i'tibar] all the national elements and forces which struggled against British colonialism and its local supporters. Also, it charged the Political Bureau with reinstating all the national elements loyal to the principles of the Yemeni revolution that had abandoned wrong approaches in determining differences within the framework of the national alliance forces since the achievement of national independence, and to ensure their right to participate in the general political life of the country.

The Central Committee charged a specialized economic committee with drawing up a plan for economic activity, within the framework of the economic policy of the unified state, and with examining the possibility of

starting to combine similar organizations in the period following the setting up the unified state.

The Central Committee approved the cancellation of all measures that obstructed the movement of Yemeni goods between the two parts, and the different governorates of the Yemeni homeland, including measures pertaining to taxation and customs duties.

The communique said that, for the purpose of deepening the exercise of democracy and the right to political participation, the Central Committee has directed the quarters concerned to present laws pertaining to the press and publications for public debate, and to make urgent arrangements to issue new newspapers based on them.

Yemen Arab Republic

South Yemen Unity Minister Visits Sanaa

JN1112190189 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Rashid Muhammad Thabit, Central Committee member, and minister of state for Union Affairs in the southern part of the homeland, arrived in Sanaa today on a visit to the capital. During the visit, Thabit will hold consultations with brother officials in the Unity Affairs Office over arrangements related to the implementation of the unionist Aden agreement and the intensification of the official and popular contacts so as to complete steps aimed at realizing the merger between the two parts of the Yemeni homeland.

In a statement to SABA', brother Rashid Muhammad Thabit explained that he and brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for Unity Affairs, are conducting arrangements to carry out moves in some of the Arab states. Other joint delegations, he said, will make moves in the other Arab countries with a view to putting our Arab brothers in the picture of the unity steps that have been taken, stressing that Yemeni unity is intended to create stability and prosperity, and is a step on the way to achieving overall Arab unity.

Brothers Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for Unity Affairs, and Standing Committee member, and Muhammad al-'Ammali, Director of Unity Affairs' Office, received Minister Thabit upon arrival.

Yemeni Military Coordination Minutes Signed

JN1112194389 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has attended a ceremony for the signing of the minutes on coordination in the field of training and rehabilitation at military colleges and schools in light of what the Military and the Joint Security Affairs' Committee has accomplished in the two parts of the homeland. Brothers Staff Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir, Political Bureau candidate member, first deputy defense minister, and chief of staff in the southern part of the homeland; and Staff Colonel 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of staff and Standing Committee member; signed the minutes.

This new unionist step is intended to further consolidate the unionist steps in this field with that which promotes the historic Aden Agreement. Attending the signing ceremony were brothers Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for Unity Affairs and Standing Committee member; Rashid Muhammad Thabit, Central Committee member and minister of state for Union Affairs; and a number of senior military leaders in the Armed Forces of the two parts of Yemen.

South Yemeni General Departs Sanaa After Visit

JN1112211989 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Staff Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir, Political Bureau candidate member, first deputy defense minister, and chief of staff in the southern part of the homeland, and his accompanying delegation left Sanaa today following a 5-day visit to the northern part. During their stay, Staff Brig Gen Tahir and his delegation met with a number of their brother officials in the Armed Forces, and visited a number of military installations. They were seen off by Brother Staff Colonel Engineer 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of staff and Standing Committee member, and a number of Armed Forces officers.

In a statement to SABA', Brother Staff Brig Gen Haytham Qasim Tahir and Brother Staff Col 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri expressed their pleasure over the positive results of their meetings with officials in the Yemeni Armed Forces. They affirmed that absolute mutual confidence prevailed in these meetings, reflecting the great results realized for our Yemeni people during the visit to Aden by Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The most important of these results is the signing of the draft constitution of the unity state as a cornerstone and basic pillar of its laws and regulations.

Brothers Haytham and Al-Bashiri emphasized that their meetings were characterized by the certain feeling that unity is the first and last option not only of our Armed Forces, but also of our people as a whole. They explained that agreement has been reached on a number of projects and agreements aimed at joint coordination between the Armed Forces in the two parts in training and joint projects. They indicated that the Armed Forces in Yemen generally have played a leading, distinguished role in our Yemeni issues, and will retain this role within the state of unity in the future, God willing.

PLO's 'Arafat in Sanaa for 'Several Days'

Arrives 9 Dec

JN0912205889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, arrived in Sanaa tonight on a visit of several days to our country. 'Arafat was received at the airport by Brother Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; a representative from the Presidential Protocol Office; Brother 'Abdallah Abu-al-Hunud, charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the state of Palestine; and cadres of the Palestinian revolution in Sanaa.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN1012154689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, left Sanaa at dawn today after a 1-day visit. During the visit he attended a major speech and art celebration conducted yesterday evening by the General People's Congress, the embassy of the State of Palestine in Sanaa and the public trade organizations to mark the occasion of the Palestinian intifadah in occupied Arab territories entering its 3rd year.

In a pre-departure statement to SABA', brother Abu-'Ammar expressed optimism over the coincidental timing of the second anniversary of the Palestinian popular intifadah with the beginning of a new birth of unity between the two parts of the Yemeni homeland. He said this step will be of great benefit to the triumph of the Palestinian cause and the liberation of Jerusalem from the sacrilege of the Zionists and those who stand behind them.

Brother 'Arafat added: The Yemenis, under the leadership of Salah al-Din, played a basic role in liberating al-Aqsa Mosque from the crusaders, who are still living on the Palestinian land to this day. History will repeat itself, God willing.

'Arafat added: I congratulate the Yemeni people—in the north and the south. I congratulate my brother struggler 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, and the Arab nation on this unity, which bodes well for the future and supports the stone-throwing children, women, and old men until the liberation of Jerusalem.

Brother Abu-'Ammar said he met with members of the Executive Bureau of the Arab Lawyers Federation and the Arab Labor Unions International Federation, who currently are meeting in Sanaa. During the meetings, he discussed means of supporting the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people and the intifadah with everything it needs to face the imperialistic Zionist threat.

Ending his statement, 'Arafat expressed his appreciation for our country's role—government and people—under the leadership of brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, in supporting the intifadah and the Palestinian cause on every occasion.

At Sanaa international airport, 'Arafat was seen off by 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister and Standing Committee member, brother 'Abdallah Abu al-Hunud, the Palestinian embassy's charge d'affairs in Sanaa, and a number of Palestinian revolution cadres.

Saudi Official Arrives To Deliver Message

JN0912162289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Cabinet of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, arrived in Sanaa this afternoon on a visit during which he will deliver a written message to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from his Brother King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. Mas'ud was received at the Sanaa International Airport by Brother 'Abdallah Ibn-Husayn al-Ahmar, member of the Consultative Council and of the Standing Committee; a representative from the Presidential Protocol Department; and the Saudi charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

Received by President

JN0912213489 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at his office this afternoon Brother Shaykh Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, Saudi minister of state, cabinet member, and envoy of King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. During the meeting, Shaykh Mas'ud conveyed to Brother leader 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih a writtem message from his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques on bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern.

The meeting was attended by brother 'Abdallah Ibn-Husayn al-Ahmar, Consultative Council and Standing Committee member, and Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz Fathi, Saudi charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

Salih Receives Phone Call From Jordan's Husayn

JN0812081989 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has received a telephone call from his brother His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan. Everything related to the march of the Arab Cooperation Council, and a number of pan-Arab matters and issues of common concern were discussed during the telephone conversation.

Salih Receives Soviet Ambassador, Sends Message

JN1112054489 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office today USSR Ambassador Veniamin Popov. The brother leader asked him to convey a message to the Soviet leaders concerning the recent changes on the local, regional, and international levels.

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid on U.S., Arab Policies

JN0712104589 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 5 Dec 89 pp 7, 8

[News conference held by His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), in Abu Dhabi; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Question: I am Hamad al-Sa'id, chief editor of Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM. Your Highness, you have always been well-known for your positive positions on the efforts to attain peace in our region, the Middle East, and the Arab states. You are well aware that the Lebanese crisis has entered a difficult stage. In your opinion, what is the best way out of this crisis? How can we help fraternal Lebanon, which is being fragmented and torn apart?

The president: As a matter of fact, the brothers in Lebanon, the Arab World, and the Islamic states are all eager to protect and safeguard Lebanon. Similarly, they are also keen to serve the Palestine cause. However, one should not expect a satisfactory result immediately. Everything requires patience, and everything is in the hands of God, who created human beings and knows their state of affairs, whether it is heartening or saddening. For our part, we have made every possible effort to safeguard Lebanese and Palestinian interests. No, we have done the impossible to safeguard and serve these interests. We have continued to work to serve the interests of all Arab and Islamic states. We are even willing to work to help our friends all over the world, be they in Europe, Africa, or anywhere else. We are willing to work diligently and sincerely to bring about prosperity and stability. I, along with my brothers, believe that a frightened person cannot lead a decent life. We also believe that stability and security are prerequisites for a decent life, for progress, and for development. Someone who is insecure cannot be said to be leading a decent life. Lebanon and Palestine are limbs of the Arab body. The plight of the Lebanese and Palestinians is conspicuous and clear before our very eyes. It is also embedded in our conscience. We are well aware that our friends in the West have shouldered, along with the Arabs, some of the responsibilities, offering their good offices and expertise. We are still partners with common interests living on the same planet. We also share with them [Western friends] the fruits of stability. The West wants a partnership only in efforts to attain peace. As for us, we want a partnership designed to serve our common interests and bring about stability. We want a two-way friendship and cooperation that would bring us closer to each other. Such a friendship must be based on bilateral economic cooperation. It must also yield mutual benefits. I am referring to the economic sphere and also to stability. This is the friendship that we are seeking. However, this friendship has not so far been achieved.

Israel, for example, is a country of 4 million people living amidst 150 million Arabs. In spite of this, it has maintained its stubborn and intransigent stand. Every time the Palestinians show moderation, Israel demonstrates further intransigence and places obstacles in the way of coexistence and peace. Can we believe that Israeli intransigence toward the Arab states is possible without U.S. support and backing? This is what is behind the current Israeli position. Israel's dependence and reliance on U.S. support alows it to be intransigent in the face of the Arabs and our Palestinian brothers. But, how long will the Arab and Islamic nation's relations with the United States remain strong and friendly, given the current U.S. position? How long will we continue to put up with this position? One would not accept such a position from a brother. How then can one accept it from a friend with whom he is linked through mutual interests? For how long will we continue to accept the policy of our American friends and of many Europeans? The United States must reconsider its pro-Israel policy and take into account its relations with the Arab states. It must bring itself to feel the peoples' aspirations and weigh rationally the desires of its people and friends. Even Israel must think rationally and ponder the fate of the great powers that dominated the international scene before the emergence of the United States as a superpower. It must closely examine the fate of old empires and how they were defeated. In brief, the United States must take into consideration the rights of the Arab and Islamic world. In general, we have been showing patience. We will continue to show this patience until God dispels our worries and helps the victim triumph over the victimizer.

Question: I am Zakariya Nabil, deputy chief editor of Cairo AL-AHRAM. You have made your position on

U.S. policy clear. Your Highness, do you attach any importance to the Bush-Gorbachev summit, as far as efforts to resolve the Palestine question and Arab issues are concerned?

The president: In reaching an agreement, the Soviets and Americans have, first and foremost, their own interests in mind. The interests of the world assume a lower priority and are of minor importance to them. Such agreements are prompted by a desire to gain benefit from the world, not to bestow benefit on it. In general, they are human beings like us. They can hurt us only when God, who created them and us, allows it. [passage omitted]

Question: I am Hasan Sabra, chief editor of the Lebanese magazine AL-SHIRA'. They call you "the father" in the UAE. Your Highness, you actually are behind many Arab initiatives toward Egypt and Libya, the Yemens, Lebanon, the Western Sahara, and others. Please continue with your initiative to reconcile Syria and Iraq, and Egypt and Syria. With respect to your comments on Israeli intransigence, do you advise the PLO to change its present course of seeking to have Israel recognize it? Is there any new Arab policy toward the United States, which supports Israel?

The president: Does any of the journalists present here know what the problem between Egypt and Syria is? Do you have an answer, so that we may end this problem? What obstacles are there between Egypt and Syria, and between Syria and Iraq? We do not know them. We are ready to sacrifice funds and make efforts to end the estrangement between Egypt and Syria, and between Syria and Iraq. I spoke openly to our Syrian brothers. I told them: Do you want to stay alienated from your brothers, particularly now that Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and the Yemen Arab Republic have formed a cooperation council? They told us that they want unity. I told them: Have you not had enough of one unity experience with Egypt? Where is that unity? It no longer exists. Why do you want a second unity? I finally told them: We do not want such a unity as long as you do not benefit from the first. It would be better for you to join one of the existing Arab groupings.

We in the UAE have had our union which has become a prominent benchmark. Our brothers in the Arabian Gulf having realized the benefits of such a union decided to establish the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. The GCC has become a model to be copied in the Arab world. We hope that our Arab brothers will follow our example and proceed on the same course.

Question: I am Ahmad al-Hawani, chief editor of the London-based AL-'ARAB paper. There is a serious plan to stockpile Arab oil in the United States. This might become an important weapon in the hands of the United States and Japan. They can use the oil to bring pressure to bear on the Arabs in the future to have them reduce oil prices. Your Highness, will you bring up this question at the forthcoming GCC summit in Muscat?

The president: The truth is that we do not know what the United States' intentions are behind its stockpiling of Arab oil and increased imports of this oil. We do not know whether it seeks to protect the interests of its allies, or whether it plans something we do not know of. We consider it a friendly country and treat it the same way as we treat the European countries. As yet, we do not doubt U.S. intentions. If what you say proves to be true, then we have to ascertain that this is so. Then we can control the product we have in hand in accordance with what our interests dictate. The fate of all the Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, and Egypt is the same. Harm done to any Arab country will affect all the other Arab countries.

This rule also applies to the Islamic world which has the same interests as the Arab world. This is the reality, whether we accept it or not. We have interests in common with both Western and Eastern European countries. We wish Europe all the best because we have common interests with it, with the United States, and with the other countries in the world.

We must deal with the East and the West as they deal with us. This is our duty. We also must confront any person who wants to harm mankind. [passage omitted]

Question: I am a TASS correspondent. In your highness' talk with the Soviet delegation, you referred to the spirit of positive detente currently prevailing in the world. What does your highness think of the current Soviet restructuring policy with regard to solving the region's issues, especially the Middle East issue and the question of achieving security and stability in the Gulf region. What do you think the impact of this will be on international cooperation in general and on the Soviet-Emirian cooperation in particular?

The president: Change is necessary for human life as long as it brings good and happiness. Change is always in the interest of man who seeks a good and happy life and conduct.

The UAE's relations and friendship with the Soviet Union existed even before the establishment of diplomatic ties. We, in fact, established these relations after we found them desirable and after we ensured that they will take us to a better situation. What impedes relations between one country and another is interference in the affairs of others. Mutual respect, on the other hand, enhances relations, friendship, and cooperation. Respect among human beings is required—it is certainly required among brothers and between parents and children and husbands and wives. This is necessary if sincerity and good ties are to continue. We hope that our relations with the Soviets and with all other countries will be mutually respected and protected so that they can continue strong and pure. I have many points against some countries that interfere in the affairs of other countries, but I do not want to name these countries. I hope they will stop this interference because it is not useful. This interference was of no benefit to them;

indeed, it harmed their relations and interests. Friendship has its bases and rules, and if these are reinforced, friendship continues and becomes useful to all. Integrity and respect strengthen relations between friends. In fact, we have known nothing about the relations of the Soviets with their friends except that they have always been characterized with integrity and respect, and this prompted us to establish relations with the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

Question: I am 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan, chief editor of AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI. Your Highness, you have spoken about Israeli intransigence and the U.S. support for their intransigence. Do you not think that Arab support for the brothers in the occupied territories, who are facing the enemy daily and making continuous sacrifices, is still below the required level?

The president: I think that all Arab countries have spared no effort to support the cause of the Palestinian people, whether before or after the intifadah, and to support the continuation of the intifadah. But the Palestinian people are not doing everything to uphold their own cause, and I say this openly. The Palestinian people are dispersed and divided into groups and factions. This does not please the Palestinians themselves. They should form one solid block and proceed from a unified position. There must not be, among the Palestinian people, some who build and others who destroy. If some think that the Palestinians are happy with divisions, they are mistaken. No rational man could want the Palestinians to be remote from their leadership and not rally around it. It should not be acceptable for some Palestinians to make statements while others contradict them. This does not please us as Arabs who are concerned about Palestine, its people, and their heritage, and who are also eager to see this people regain their rights and homeland. We, therefore, do not like to see the Palestinians divided; we want them to be unified and to stand like a fortress espousing one opinion. We beseech Almighty God to unify them and rally their hearts behind their leadership. I would like to offer them a piece of advice and tell them that their cohesion and unity is an asset to be exploited. Our support for them is wholehearted and unqualified. Our support for the intifadah and the PLO is continuing. It will continue the way it used to be. No, it will be increased. This is our principled and firm public position. [passage omitted]

Question: I am Mursi al-Nuwayshi from Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI. Your Highness, the Iraqi-Iranian peace negotiations have faltered. They are deadlocked. The UAE played a vital and effective role in efforts to end the Gulf war. Your Highness, how do you view peace prospects in the Gulf region in light of the faltering peace talks between Iraq and Iran? Does the UAE have a plan to advance these negotiations? Or for that matter, do the Gulf states have a plan to push the peace talks forward?

The president: Everybody knows that Iran is a neighboring country that is close to us, geographically speaking. We have useful and positive ties of cooperation with Iran. Our bilateral ties have been free of any worries. This continued until the Iraq-Iran war broke out, which inflicted considerable damage on the two sides and caused immense losses. In addition, the war had negative effects on the countries in the region. We never wished for an outbreak of hostilities between two neighboring Islamic states resulting in a winner and a loser. We always wanted to see these two neighboring states linked through fraternal and cordial relations benefitting both of them.

We have done our best with our good offices to address the need to launch a rational dialogue and reach a common understanding between the warring states. We are still ready to offer every possible help and support to help establish peace and stability between Iraq and Iran. Iran is a neighboring Islamic state; its weakness harms its neighbors and its strength, if based on the vindication of right, would be an asset to its neighbors and to its fraternal Muslims. We will spare no effort to mend fences between the two countries. We hope that peace will be established between the two countries soon so that stability, peace, and prosperity might prevail in the region. [passage omitted]

'Aziz Attends UN General Assembly Meeting

Comments, Begins Trip

JN0912115889 Baghdad INA in English 1140 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 9, INA—Mr Tareq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister today left here for New York to attend the UN General Assembly special meeting to be held on 12th instant to discuss racial discrimination issues in the world.

In a statement to INA before departure, the Iraqi foreign minister said that he would deliver Iraq's speech at the UN General Assembly on this occasion.

He added that the second objective of his visit was responding to the call of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar previously addressed to him and Iran foreign minister to follow up contacts conducted by his personal representative Jan Eliasson in Baghdad and Tehran recently.

Mr 'Aziz stressed that Iraq's position was firm and clear and was expounded in detail during the press conference he had made following Eliasson's visit to Iraq.

Mr 'Aziz said we believe that Security Council Resolution No. 598 represents a peace plan between Iraq and Iran and in the entire region.

The Iraqi foreign minister stressed that the Iranian side continues manoeuvering and avoiding real direct talks with Iraq which are a necessary condition for implementing the resolution and reaching an understanding that would constitute a base for agreement to realise peace between the two countries and in the region.

The Iraqi foreign minister pointed out that Iraq was and still is prepared to continue contacts with the UN secretary general to enforce Security Council Resolution 598 as a peace plan.

Mr 'Aziz said that Iraq has no proposals in this context but would confirm its announced position and call the UN Secretariate General to bear its responsibilities in this respect.

He added that Iraq's proposal tabled during Eliasson's mission on setting up five committees to discuss topics on agenda of the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations serves as evidence of good intention and Iraq's resolve to discuss issues seriously.

The Iraqi foreign minister expounded that the Iranian side has not replied until now to the Iraqi proposals and described its position as passive and a new proof of having no desire to tackle these subjects directly and seriously.

On the attitude towards the question of prisoners of war, Mr 'Aziz said that he would discuss this problem with the UN secretary general and members of the Security Council.

He stressed that the Iranian regime was still using the question of POW's as a political card for pressure and blackmail and in a way contradicting with the international law and human norms.

Mr 'Aziz said the world community and the UN are called to adopt a strong and clear attitude towards Iran's clear-cut violation of the Geneva Agreement of 1949 concerning POW's and its immoral and illegal behavour in this regard.

Arrives in New York

JN1012112889 Baghdad INA in English 1025 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] New York, Dec 10, INA—Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Tariq 'Aziz arrived here last night to attend next Tuesday session of the U.N. General Assembly on the question of racial discrimination.

INA correspondent said that Mr 'Aziz will address the General Assembly on the destructive consequences of racial discrimination in South Africa.

Tomorrow, Mr 'Aziz will meet U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to follow-up contacts made by his envoy Jan Eliasson during his recent mission in Baghdad and Tehran.

Meets UN Secretary General

JN1212103489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] United Nations, 12 Dec (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz met yesterday with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar at the UN headquarters in New York.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the means of implementing UN Security Council Resolution No 598 and the issue of releasing the prisoners of war [POW's].

Following the meeting, the foreign minister told journalists his talks with Perez de Cuellar were very useful, and they had assessed the situation following the visit to Baghdad and Tehran by the UN secretary general's personal envoy, Jan Eliasson.

Tariq 'Aziz stressed the need to hold true direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran under the auspices of the UN secretary general to reach a joint understanding to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598 to achieve a lasting and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran and in the entire region.

Tariq 'Aziz added that during his meeting with Perez de Cuellar, he made a strong appeal to draw attention to the tragedy of the POW's held hostage by Iran for a long time to use them in the political process, which was prolonged by the Iranian intransigence and refusal to adopt a sound course to settle problems through negotiations between the concerned parties.

Pointing to Iran's refusal to release the POW's, the minister said there are more than 100,000 Iraqi and Iranian POW's who should have been released immediately after the cease-fire on 20 August 1988. The foreign minister stressed holding these POW's hostage to the political process is a flagrant violation of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949 and of all human values and the legitimate moral commitments toward those people. He expressed hope the UN Security Council and the entire international community will give further attention to the POW issue.

He said he briefed the UN secretary general on the reasons behind the Iraqi proposals made at the end of Jan Eliasson's visit to Baghdad. The proposals included forming five working teams consisting of Iraqi, Iranian, and UN representatives to discuss issues included in the [UN Security Council] resolution, and reaching a common and necessary understanding as a practical and preliminary move to hold a meeting between the [Iraqi and Iranian foreign] ministers without ruling out the possibility of holding meetings at higher levels.

Answering a question on the date for conducting a ministerial meeting, Tariq 'Aziz said: The UN secretary general would like to see the two ministers meet under his auspices to hold true direct talks. However, this depends on the other side's response to this. I cannot, therefore, answer this question now, and the UN secretary general should answer this question if he has received anything new from the Iranian minister.

Regarding the agenda for negotiations in New York, the foreign minister said Resolution No 598 is the agenda for negotiations between Iraq and Iran, and nothing else. 'Aziz stressed Iraq's refusal to link the POW issue with any other political issue. He added the POW issue is of a special nature that is dealt with by the Third Geneva Convention of 1949.

The foreign minister is scheduled to meet with Perez de Cuellar tomorrow, and will meet with journalists again following the meeting.

Husayn Confers Names on Rocket, Missile Systems

JN0912114389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has issued an order conferring the name of "al-'Abid" [the worshipper] on the satellite-carrier rocket system to praise and thank God for the success and victory he bestowed on Iraq and the Arab nation in this prominent scientific field. His excellency also issued an order giving the name of "Tammuz-1" to the 2,000-km-range missile after the month of July [tammuz], the month of giving, well-being, and revolution.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Iran's POW Stand

JN0912130089 Baghdad INA in English 1250 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 9, INA—An Iraqi Foreign Ministry official spokesman said that behaviours of the Iranian regime in attributing statements by international officials visiting Tehran on the issue of repatriation prisoners of war (POWs) between Iraq and Iran reflects stances contradicting with the Third Geneva Agreement for 1949 and commitment to release POWs. [sentence as received]

The statement of the spokesman said that the Iranian regime attributed to Mr Angelo Knidinger, special envoy of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) a statement on his visit to Tehran between 2-6 instant on his meeting with Iran foreign minister as saying that the ICRC believes that swap of POWs should be done in coordination with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The spokesman said that if such statement was true, then it represents a backing down of the committee's announced attitude and contradicts with the Geneva Agreement which provides for exchange of POWs immediately after cessation of hostilities and in an independent method away from the political aspects of security Council Resolution 598.

The spokesman added that the Iraqi permanent mission to the U.N. European Headquarters in Geneva asked the ICRC a clarification on the matter and received a reply yesterday in which it denied the statement attributed to its envoy Knidinger.

The ICRC reply said that the committee envoy during his visit to Tehran conducted thorough talks on the problem of Iraqi-Iranian POWs with the Iranian authorities and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and pointed out that the committee's envoy during his mission in Tehran did not give any press statement or asked any body else to speak on his behalf.

The reply added that the question that was discussed by the committee envoy in Tehran would be a source of pleasure to be discussed with the Iraqi authorities soon.

The Iraqi spokesman said that the Iranian behaviour of attributing false statements to international officials represents another example to the Iranian regime behaviours and also Iran's stances which contradict the Geneva Agreement on the treatment of POWs and continued rejection to adhere to the release of POWs and returning them to their homeland.

Industry Minister Meets With Soviet General

JN0912214489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA)—Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, met

here today with General Smirnov, assistant army chief of staff for external relations in the Soviet Union, and his delegation. During the meeting, the Iraqi minister stressed his ministry's keen interest in promoting cooperation with the Soviets. The Soviet official extended congratulations on the great scientific achievement of the military industrialization employees, who succeeded in launching the Iraqi satellite-carrier rocket system.

Visitor Departs 11 Dec

JN1112120589 Baghdad INA in English 1140 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 11. INA—Soviet Assistant Chief-of-Staff for External Relations and the delegation accompanying him General Smirnov left Baghdad today winding up a three-day visit to Iraq.

He was seen off at the airport by assistant chief of staff and the Soviet charge d'affairs in Baghdad.

Oil Minister Confers With Visiting U.S. Team

JN1012124489 Baghdad INA in English 1135 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 10, INA—Iraqi Minister of Oil Mr. 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim met here today with visiting U.S Assistant State Secretary Mr. Edward Gnehm and the accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, means of developing economic relations between the two countries were reviewed.

Ramadan Meets Sudanese Revolution Council Member

EA0812101789 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Dec (SUNA)—Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and Iraq's first deputy prime minister, has confirmed Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is concerned to see stability in the Sudan and backs endeavors to entrench and reinforce the country's unity and security, which are part of pan-Arab security. Colonel Salah al-Din Karrar, member of the Revolution Command Council, who currently is visiting Iraq, met Mr Ramadan here yesterday. [6 December] Col Karrar confirmed Sudan, its leadership and people, appreciate Iraq's pan-Arab position and the Iraqi president's concern for Sudan.

Vice President Confers With Amir of Bahrain

JN1112170889 Baghdad INA in English 1610 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] Manama, Dec 11, INA—Shaykh'Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifah Amir of Bahrain today conferred here with Mr 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the delegation accompanying him.

Mr Ibrahim arrived in Manama earlier today on a visit and for talks with Bahraini officials on developments in the Arab region.

During the meeting, Mr Ibrahim conveyed Iraq's appreciation to Bahrain's national stands vis-a-vis Iraq's battle in defence of its Arab sovereignty.

Mr Ibrahim also expressed satisfaction over the development of relations between Iraq and Bahrain in various fields and stressed joint desire for further boosting them in service of common interest.

Referring to developments of Iraqi-Iranian negotiations and the international efforts to implement Security Council Resolution 598, the Iraqi RCC vice-chairman stressed Iraq's keenness to restore just and comprehensive peace between the two countries and attaining security and stability in the region.

Mr Ibrahim referred to Iraq's proposal for holding a direct meeting with Iran and said that such meeting was necessary and also the formation of joint committees to discuss aspects of implementing Resolution 598.

He pointed out that it was not in favour of anybody to perpetuate the state of no-war no-peace and that Iran would lose more.

The Amir of Bahrain renewed his country's desire to step up brotherly cooperation between Iraq and Bahrain and wished progress and prosperity for Iraq.

The Amir of Bahrain referring to Iraq's launching of a rocket into space paid tribute to this historic scientific achievement saying that progress and strength of Iraq were those of Bahrain and the Arab nation.

Speaking to INA correspondent following the arrival of Mr Ibrahim, the Bahraini prime minister referred to the importance of Mr Ibrahim's visit which he said comes within the frame of continued consultations between the two countries for boosting bilateral relations.

The Bahraini premier extolled Iraq's national policies and its positive role in serving the Arab and Islamic issues.

PLO's 'Arafat Leaves Baghdad 10 Dec

JN1012152289 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, left Baghdad today [as heard] after a visit to Iraq lasting several days. He was seen off at the airport by the director and members of the Liberation Movements Bureau at the Revolution Command Council and the ambassador of the State of Palestine in Baghdad.

Arens Asks Baker for PLO Responses, Positions

TA1112141389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Report by Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar]

[Text] It was disclosed for the first time today that Israel is showing interest in the PLO's responses and positions toward the Baker plan. This was divulged this morning by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. From an official report by committee secretary Uri Raday, it has been learned that Arens briefed the members on his telephone conversation with Secretary of State James Baker after the latter received the Egyptian response to the five-point plan.

According to Foreign Minister Arens, Baker said the Egyptians informed him that the PLO had handed them a text referring to the five-point plan. Arens said he told the committee members: I asked Baker what the PLO response was, and Baker replied that he does not know.

Knesset Member Yosi Sarid said to Arens: Do you not think that by asking Baker what the PLO position is that you are deviating from the government's policy that PLO thinking is of no interest to us? The above was the committee secretary's official version.

Dani Nave, the foreign minister's spokesman, claims that Arens did not say that he had asked Baker what the PLO reply was, but whether he, Baker, knows the PLO response. According to Nave, that is significantly different from the earlier version, since the foreign minister did not show any interest in the PLO position, but in the U.S. response to it. Do you not believe that Egypt is serving as a messenger for transmitting PLO answers, the foreign minister was asked after the meeting:

[Begin Arens recording] I would not say that. I believe it will all become clear in the meeting of the three foreign ministers. I was told by the Egyptian foreign minister—during a conversation with him while talking to the Egyptian president—that Egypt is playing an Egyptian role, and that Egypt wants to play an Egyptian role in advancing the peace process. I hope that is the case. [end recording]

Arens Sees 'Positive Effect' of European Events

TA1012100589 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Dec 89 p 3

[Report by Avi Gan'or]

[Excerpt] "What is happening in Eastern Europe and the USSR will have a positive effect on us," said Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, who was the guest of honor at the opening session of the Jeane Kirkpatrick Forum in the Ha'aretz Museum in Tel Aviv yesterday. "For many years, the USSR has been supplying the Arab states with weapons, pilots, and methods, and has even served as a catalyst in some of the wars. Today, however, we have reason to believe that the situation has changed and that the Arabs will no longer be getting a blank check from the Soviets the way they were in the past."

Minister Arens said that, during his recent visits to Eastern Europe and his meetings with leaders of those countries, he felt an admiration and sympathy for Israel. According to him, economic cooperation between Israel and the Arab countries could serve as the basis for a political solution in our region. [passage omitted]

Questions USSR's Status

TA1212094389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Dec 89 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Text] The current changes sweeping Eastern Europe and the rumblings in the Soviet Union should make Israel query whether the Soviet Union can still be considered a superpower, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said in the Knesset Foreign Relations Committee yesterday.

Arens reportedly said: "The Soviets want to be involved in the peace process, yet the Soviets do not see the Mideast as most important for them. After events in Europe, the idea of viewing the Soviets as a superpower equal to the U.S. needs examination."

Some observers see Arens's statement as expressing impatience with the Soviet failure to renew full diplomatic relations with Israel. Arens said that the changes taking place in Eastern Europe signalled an "end to the Communist empire that attempted world hegemony, and whose system was considered a rival to the U.S."

The committee also heard briefings on Eastern Europe from senior Foreign Ministry official Yosef Govrin, head of the Eastern Europe desk, and David Afeq, head of the research department.

Moda'i Confers With Beregovoy on EEC Links

TA0712140589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Economics and Planning Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i has conferred in Paris with Pierre Beregovoy, the French minister of economy, finance, and budget, who heads the council of EEC finance ministers. Beregovoy promised that France would support Israel's request for a separate discussion with the EEC institutions on agreements, as Europe heads toward unification in 1992. Beregovoy said that French President Francois Mitterrand instructed that issues pertaining to economic and trade cooperation between Israel and France not be tied to the political differences between the two countries.

Moda'i Wants 'To Torpedo' Baker's Initiative

TA1012163089 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Interview with Economics and Planning Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i by Dan Margalit—live in studio]

[Excerpts] [Margalit] You tried to raise the political issue in today's Cabinet session. After the meeting you also conferred with Deputy Prime Minister David Levi. Ari'el Sharon, the third member of the constraints ministers, did not attend today's session because he is sick. Will you summon the Likud Central Committee prior to Minister Moshe Arens' departure for the meeting of the foreign ministers in Washington?

[Moda'i] We filed a request to summon the Likud Central Committee even before the Inner Cabinet decided on its response to Secretary of State Baker's initiative, and we have submitted it again several times since then. But without the agreement of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, chairman of the Likud Movement, we cannot convene the Central Committee. As soon as he complies with our request the Central Committee will be summoned.

[Margalit] He has said he is willing to summon it.

[Moda'i] He did not address this statement to the right persons. He has said as much in public, but the requests were submitted to him by Minister Sharon, the Central Committee chairman, in accordance with the Likud's regulations. As far as I know, at least until yesterday, Minister Sharon had not received a reply.

[Margalit] Why do you actually want to summon the Central Committee prior to Minister Arens' trip to Washington?

[Moda'i] That is quite simple. At the moment there is only one resolution of the Central Committee that is binding on the Likud members, both in the Cabinet and the Knesset, and that is the Cabinet initiative or, in other words, Shamir's initiative and the attached constraints.

On the other hand, many things have happened since then: President Mubarak's plan has been categorically rejected; the Baker initiative has been accepted with conditions and/or assumptions; and Egypt has given its response, as far as I know, with conditions and assumptions as well. I do not know where this came from, and I do not understand what Egypt has got to do with it. This time, the conditions were not put forth by Egypt but by 'Arafat; that much is as clear as day. [passage omitted]

[Margalit] Why should Arens, and Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein prior to that, not go to Washington to hold substantial discussions about the composition of the Palestinian delegation to the talks in Cairo?

[Moda'i] How do you know that will be the issue on the agenda? Who said so?

[Margalit] What would be on the agenda is Baker's five points? After all, the Egyptian response is to Baker's five points and so is the Israeli Cabinet response, which was issued against your judgment.

[Moda'i] You are wrong. The Israeli Cabinet response which was issued against our judgment is to Baker's five points, along with Israel's conditions. What about those conditions? Egypt's response on behalf of 'Arafat is affirmative with regard to Baker's five points, with comments and assumptions about them. What about those? Who will find out what they mean? Will the Cabinet secretary do that?

[Margalit] Israel's six assumptions are known, but we do not know the Egyptian, perhaps the PLO's, additions. We have just heard that Shamir told you in today's Cabinet session that Israel has not received them.

[Moda'i] Indeed, I asked him whether we had received the Egyptian proposal—the PLO's proposal via Egypt—and he said we had not yet received it. So, why go to Washington? What's the big hurry?

[Margalit] To clarify all these matters.

[Moda'i] Why? Do we not have fax machines and telephones nowadays? We can tell our foreign minister to take pen and pencil where the plan is concerned, but we have to go all the way to Washington to learn the Egyptian conditions?

[Margalit] Why do you object to the trip? Do you want to torpedo the Israeli peace initiative?

[Moda'i] We do not want to torpedo the Israeli peace initiative but, if we can, we definitely want to torpedo Baker's peace initiative.

[Margalit] Minister Moda'i, I thank you very much.

Considers 'Alternative' to Plan

TA1112055289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Economic Planning Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i has said he is considering proposing an alternative to the government's peace initiative, which would maintain Israel's territorial integrity while offering a chance of a settlement with the surrounding Arab countries.

Interviewed by reporter Jack Katzenell, Moda'i said the key to political solutions lies in the economy, and this can be seen now in Europe. Israel is not in a worse economic situation with respect to the Middle East than Western Europe is to Eastern Europe, according to Moda'i. [passage omitted]

Peres Reviews Effects of 'Global Metamorphosis'

TA0812083589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Dec 89 pp 6, 11

[Commentary by Shim'on Peres: "The Middle East in a Brave New World"; translated by Vivian 'Eden]

[Excerpts] Neither Russia nor Hungary, nor Poland nor Czechoslovakia has brought about the global metamorphosis that is taking place today. It is the changes that have taken place in the world as a whole that have spurred developments in those countries. It was these changes, too, that have brought to the fore leaders like Mikhail Gorbachev and Lech Walesa. These are people who understood the challenge of transition even before they took the helm. [passage omitted]

There are some among us who claim that the world at large has changed whereas our own world has stayed just the way it was. That is utter nonsense. Even if there are some among us who have not changed, whether they know it or not they *are* living in a changed world.

Information from the outside world does reach into the Arab world. Young Arabs appreciate, more than ever, that another hijra is necessary, to leap from yesterday's world to today's. There are more and more Arabs who understand that it is not sufficient to give birth and be born—it is also necessary to engage in physical, biological and spiritual pursuits. Television is not subordinate to the jihad. It disseminates all the different religions, and it makes comparisons between all regions.

Modern communications are undermining, and will continue to undermine, all the undemocratic regimes of the Middle East. Dictatorship has no future. The dictators are bereft of solutions for their peoples.

Tanks may be good in a display of might, but they do not provide food; they are, moreover, so expensive that they devour the little food there is. No matter how brightly they polish their swords, leaders must respond to the rumblings of empty bellies. No Arab dictatorship has brought prosperity to its people. They have caused wars, they have denied individual freedom, but they have not overcome poverty, disease or ignorance.

Sooner or later what happened in Eastern Europe will happen in the Middle East: The people will raise the banner of revolt not against their neighbours, but against their rulers.

Even today, more and more Arabs understand that the source of power and prosperity is science and education. The Arab world has huge territories—10 million square kilometres in all. They remain ten million square kilometres of poverty. The huge natural population growth provides no compensation for the terrible poverty—it adds to it. If the population of Egypt has increased sevenfold in the twentieth century—has its power increased sevenfold, or has its poverty increased sevenfold?

And what have the wars against Israel contributed? Before the wars, the Arabs held Sinai, the Golan Heights, Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. And what has the Iran-Iraq war contributed, the war in Lebanon, the civil war in Yemen? And what has the war between Libya and Chad contributed, or the civil war in Sudan? What is the point of the battles? Of the deaths?

The polarized world, the world that lived on the tension between the super-powers, ensured that our region would be polarized as well. The United States and the Soviet Union, each in its own way, attempted to acquire assets and establish advantages in this region. The U.S. tried to achieve this with an even-handed approach, by maintaining deeply friendly ties with Israel while maintaining friendly relations with Arab states as well. The Soviet Union tried to achieve this through a one-sided policy by strengthening its relations with the Arab countries, even at the expense of relations with Israel.

The Soviet Union which has concluded that there is no longer any point in maintaining polarized international tension is the same Soviet Union which is trying to extricate itself from its previous one-sided Middle East policy. If Moscow is prepared to come to terms with the changes in its stature in Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria or East Germany, why should it pay a high price to maintain its position in Syria, in Libya or in Ethiopia. The countries of the Middle East cost them dear; nor do they promise assets which are capable of withstanding the test of time.

The recent speech by the Soviet ambassador to Syria revealed the change in the Soviet position vis-a-vis Syria, the Arab country to which it is closest. Although the Russians later tried to soften what he had said, they did not recant. He told the Syrians: abandon the military approach, follow the path of statesmanship; do not seek strategic balance with Israel, make do with self-defence; the Soviet Union will no longer provide you with weaponry on credit, only for cash. This was no arcane utterance. It was a profound political statement.

To these changes, another basic change has been added: the Soviet Union has ceased to be the model of totalitarian government for those Arab states which tried to imitate it. Its economic failure, its felicitous departure from the politics of power, the openness which is altering the character of its government—all these have distanced it from a seductive ideology and over-simplified idealization for those who are seeking a model for dictatorial government.

A Middle East without Soviet one-sidedness, without communist dictatorships, is an altogether different place.

Peace in the region is now no longer just an American dream—it is now also a Soviet interest.

There is no point in denying the possibility that changes in Soviet policy will generate changes in American policy as well. The U.S. will seek fewer "strategic assets" and

will prefer more democratic allies. (I have always held that Israel must be a moral force and must present itself as such.) The change in the character of the foreign presence in the Middle East will compel the nations of the region to confront themselves, their values and their resources. Solutions of local origin will have to be found for problems of local origin.

It will be difficult to count on money and credit from outside, on one-sided political support, on a flow of arms regulated by local caprices.

And, as each Arab state confronts itself, it will find out that constant growth in military strength, alongside large population growth, is a real threat to progress and to any regime which persists on that path. It is not a change in the attitude of the Arabs to Israel that will bring peace to the Middle East, but rather their attitude to war. The Arab states cannot pay the price of a modern army without taking bread from the mouths of their own children. They cannot continue to ignore the *results* of wars, both with respect to their *outcomes* (the absence of victories) and with respect to their economic and social costs (an increase in poverty).

The Middle East, if it wants to survive, must re-organize as an economic entity instead of continuing to have a military split personality. I believe—although at this moment it looks as distant and as unlikely as the vision of a new Europe looked two years ago—that what has happened in Europe will occur in the Middle East: a process of demilitarization in respect of foreign policy; a process of democratization in internal affairs; a lowering of economic barriers; a process of increasing access to information.

I am convinced that the Middle East has no choice but to establish a common market, and to operate economically along the short and natural transportation routes through the region. Instead of trying to compete with powerful economic systems that are more advanced and distant, it will try to establish a large, advanced economy of its own.

We, of course, cannot dictate to the Arabs what to do, but it is imperative that Israel understand what is happening in the world and what is happening in our region. Israel can isolate itself and turn into an anti-quated but picturesque locality. Israel has always been a symbol of progress, and we must not allow this to be taken away from us by those who wish to freeze the situation as it now is. Yesterday's policies must not turn Israel into a backwater. With all the importance of what is happening in the Gaza Strip, what is happening in the world is more important. Gaza will not change the world. The world will change Gaza.

It is not the number of kilometres alone which will determine Israel's fate, but people's attitudes, and the relationships between people which will determine whether Israel invests in science or in the intifada, in the absorption of immigrants or in pointless arguments over semantics.

We must decide today, and on a large scale. Our region will change for the better. It is in our best interests to draw our conclusions from these changes—and the sooner the better.

It is possible to open negotiations with the Palestinians. There is no point in putting this off because of fine points of phraseology. If the Palestinians go to the polls, it will be a serious test of the internal and foreign policies of our neighbours. Democracy is not an addition to violence, but a substitute for it. Government based on elections is a first and essential step towards a long line of changes ahead.

Peres Rebuts 'Jordan Is Palestine' Doctrine

TA1212094789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Dec 89 p 1

[Report by Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpt] Vice Premier Peres yesterday blasted the "Jordan is Palestine" doctrine, saying, "It is not for Israel to intervene in internal Jordanian matters, just as we would not appreciate an external element telling us that Israel is not Israel."

"Jordan is Jordan," Peres said in a meeting with former U.S. assistant secretary of state Richard Murphy, who is here on behalf of the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations.

In an apparent response to Prime Minister Shamir's statement last week that "Jordan is Palestine"—repeated yesterday in the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee by Foreign Minister Arens—Peres said: "We must be wary of reciting unrealistic slogans which cast Israel in an uncomfortable light."

He said that he saw a possibility of Jordan re-entering the peace process, since "a solution within the Jordanian-Palestinian framework is possible." [passage omitted]

El Al Signs Flight Agreement With Aeroflot

TA0712113789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] El Al has signed a flight agreement with Aeroflot. The first flight on the Tel Aviv-Moscow route will take place next month. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that Rafi Har-Lev, El Al director general, has returned from talks in the USSR. Har-Lev said that a commercial agreement has been signed, and that it settles all points of disagreement between the two companies.

Arab 'Pressure' Delays Flights

TA0812190289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] A senior official in Jerusalem said the reports about an aviation agreement with the USSR have caused

damage. Arab countries have exerted pressure on the Ministries of Civil Aviation and Foreign Affairs in Moscow, which is holding up ratification of the accord. The official believes that the direct flights will be inaugurated in several months time and not next month, as aviation officials in Israel had expected.

The official also said that 250,000 Jews in Soviet Uzbekistan are in danger, and Israel is making efforts to bring them here.

Agriculture Minister Discusses Moscow Visit

TA0712193389

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Domestic Television in Arabic at 1700 GMT on 7 December airs a 30-minute interview with Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-'Oz upon his return from an official visit to Moscow. The videorecorded interview by Shlomo Ganor and Menashe Bakhar is conducted in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles.

Asked about his opinion of the receipt of the Egyptian response to the Baker plan, Minister Katz-'Oz says that although he does not believe an official reaction should be issued until the exact nature of the Egyptian reply is known, we should make it plain that we welcome the development. Responding to a question on whether an Alignment-Likud accord on the political issue is possible, the minister replies that "since the Israeli Government had made resolutions as a united government, and since we have already made several steps forward, I do not believe the government will take a negative position by refusing to continue the process." He adds that "the majority of the Likud, including the prime minister and the foreign minister, who are the spearhead of a positive move toward negotiations, are in favor of the move."

Responding to a question about the possibility of Rabin replacing Peres as the party leader, Katz-'Oz replies that in his opinion, "Shim'on Peres should head the party, as I am sure he will do in the future." He adds that he sees no possibility of a future personal race in the Labor Party.

Asked about his visit to Moscow and the possibility of resuming diplomatic relations, Minister Katz-'Oz says that the overall attitude of all Soviet officials he had met, including Supreme Soviet members and central systems representatives, was sympathetic and encouraging on all levels. In his opinion, "the resumption of relations will take some time yet. I think the State of Israel should prefer tight and friendly unofficial relations to cool formal diplomatic ties."

He continues by stating that the Israeli Agriculture Ministry had initiated the visit to the USSR in the belief that Israel can be of assistance to the Soviets with both the quantities of fresh agricultural produce it can supply, and with the high technological capability of its agriculture. He continues by detailing the agricultural produce supply agreement signed in Moscow.

Asked about the nature of the assistance to the PRC, Minister Katz-'Oz replies: "In my opinion, the Chinese have been unfair to us. I had a disagreement with the Foreign Ministry about that, but I still insist that I am right. Each time discussions were started regarding mutual aid or joint ventures, and the Israeli press would publish reports of the contacts... the Chinese would warn us that if the new facts were reported in our press, the contacts would be stopped. What I always said is that they are not doing us any favors, that they are the ones who need us." After being repeatedly asked by Ganor whether there are Israeli agriculture instructors in China, Katz-'Oz replies that "this forum cannot have the precise details on this issue at the moment."

The agriculture minister is then asked about the agricultural agreements with Egypt, on which he states that the previous agreements were crowned with success and that "we are extremely pleased with the cooperation, which benefits Israel's agriculture as well."

Shamir's Hernia Operation Ends 'Successfully'

TA1212093989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] The hernia operation that was performed on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir ended successfully a short while ago.

Our correspondent Rina Matzliah reports that the operation lasted approximately 1 hour and was carried out under local anesthetic. The prime minister then spent approximately 45 minutes in the recovery room. During the operation, the surgeons discovered that the type of hernia Mr Shamir suffered from is more common among young people.

The prime minister will be released from the hospital within several days.

Ministry, Army Deny Military Deal With Ethiopia

TA1012060889 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Dec 89 p 1

[Report by UK-based correspondent Yaqir Tzur]

[Excerpts] Israel and Ethiopia have signed a secret agreement, according to which Israel will supply Ethiopia with military equipment and assistance. In return, President Mengistu's government promised to allow the emigration of Ethiopian Jews still living there. This report is published in THE SUNDAY TIMES appearing in London today. The report is based on Western sources. [passage omitted]

The Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday that no additional conditions were attached to the resumption of relations between Israel and Ethiopia. The spokesman added that he does not know of any military cooperation agreement, and that even if such an agreement existed, it would not be connected with the resumption of relations.

An Israeli army spokesman also denied the report, stating that he does not know of any such deal.

Iraqi Rocket Threat Called 'Serious Matter'

TA0812115289 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Dec 89 p A2

[Report by Shefi Gabay]

[Excerpts] Iraq yesterday announced that its space scientists have launched a three-stage rocket which can carry a satellite into space for peaceful purposes. [passage omitted]

A senior security source in Israel stressed that "this is a serious matter," pointing out that "Iraq has now assumed a place at the forefront of Middle East technology. As opposed to the Syrians and Saudi Arabians, who purchased old-fashioned missiles from the PRC, the Iraqis enlisted the aid of scientists from Western Europe, mainly from the FRG."

The source asserted that "if the reports from Baghdad are true, the Iraqis have missiles that can be launched from any corner of Iraq and cover the entire territory of Israel." The source claimed that "the reports from Baghdad are being taken very seriously in Israel, and we are monitoring developments. This is a whole new dimension, which gives Iraq greater maneuverability and disrupts Israel's early warning capability." [passage omitted]

Amman Riots Reportedly Contravene PLO Orders

TA1112110989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Dec 89 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Dan Sagir]

[Text] The outbreak of riots by Palestinian youth in the large refugee camps outside Amman at the end of last week completely contravened the instructions the PLO and Fatah had given that population.

This was the assessment of Israeli military sources, who pointed out that since the beginning of the intifadah in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian leadership in general and Yasir 'Arafat in particular have made sure that it does not spill over to the East Bank and have prevented riots against King Husayn's rule.

More than half of Jordan's population of approximately 3 million is Palestinian, of whom approximately 300,000 live in squalor in 10 refugee camps located mostly around Amman. Politically, the Palestinians identify chiefly with Fatah, which maintains an organizational infrastructure in their camps akin to the ones it runs in the refugee camps in Lebanon and Israel.

A military source dealing with the issue said: "The refugee camp inhabitants are a real time bomb ticking in Jordan; yet this is only a time bomb in terms of a historical process and not something that will occur in the near future. There is no doubt that the stirrings in the territories have affected them and kindled their feelings of national identity. Furthermore, King Husayn's decision to disengage from the West Bank forced them to make a clear choice between identifying with Jordan and maintaining their own Palestinian identity."

According to this military source, despite the unrest and the national and social background which is so conducive to rioting in the refugee camps in Jordan, the PLO knows very well that opening a second front in Jordan could, from its standpoint, completely erase the achievements of the intifadah.

An uprising in Jordan will not win any support either in the Arab world or in the international community and might furthermore harm the PLO's contacts with the United States, which backs Husayn's regime. Another consideration the Palestinians bear in mind is that the Jordanian Government's reaction to riots could be more brutal.

King Husayn, for his part, acknowledges the PLO's calming influence, and after the riots in April subsided made it a point to thank the organization for its restraining moves.

Another manifestation of the PLO's tranquilizing influence in Jordan was its total abstention from any involvement in the parliamentary elections that took place there approximately 2 months ago, both by remaining passive regarding the voting itself and by refraining from supporting any specific candidate. This resulted in the distribution of the Palestinian candidates' power among various forces and helped candidates representing the Islamic Brotherhood score sweeping successes in the refugee camps.

Infiltration Through Egypt Officially Protested

TA1012110589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] It was disclosed today that Israel has protested the penetration of terrorists from Egypt near Har Harif in the Negev. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni was summoned to the Foreign Ministry on Thursday [7 December]. David Sultan, the deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry, said that Israel takes a grave view of the infiltration of terrorists via the Egyptian border. He emphasized that Israel knows that Cairo's policy is to maintain quiet borders. Israel expects Egypt to step up its efforts to prevent such penetrations in the future.

'Terrorists' From Syria Get 25 Years in Prison

TA0712203589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Two terrorists from Syria, aged 17 and 18, who had attempted to infiltrate Israel in May 1989, were sentenced to 25 years in prison by the Lod military court. The two had belonged to a squad in the Front for the

Liberation of Palestine [organization name as heard] and had fought in a clash with an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit in south Lebanon. During the clash, two terrorists were killed, two managed to escape, and two others were apprehended.

Our correspondent Yisra'el Peretz reports that after pleading guilty, the terrorists rose to their feet and shouted anti-Israeli slogans. They were removed from the court, after which their sentence was read aloud.

PLO Agrees To Include Hamas in Delegation

TA1212102889 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Dec 89 pp 1, 6

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Prominent figures in the Gaza Strip say that the PLO has agreed to include a representative of the Islamic movement Hamas in the delegation to the talks with Israel to forestall any future opposition to the peace process on the part of Hamas. The main candidate mentioned is Dr Mahmud 'Azar, who recently even expressed support for the proposed peace plan. The HA'ARETZ correspondent has learned from Palestinian sources that leading Hamas activists demand that at least one more representative from Judaea and Samaria be included in the delegation. It also has been learned that in recent discussions with uprising leaders in the Gaza Strip, Hamas for the first time agreed to take part in the political process. Dr 'Azar runs a clinic in Gaza and has in the past been kept in administrative detention for 3 months.

Dr Ahmad Tawfiq, the political counselor of the Egyptian ambassador to Israel, last night secretly conferred with notables in Gaza, including Dr Mahmud al-Yaghagi [name as published] and As'ad al-Saftawi, to coordinate the political moves in the area. Dr Tawfiq even examined with them general ideas about the composition of the Palestinian delegation to the talks with Israel and told the Gazans that as far as it was concerned, Egypt had no objection to the inclusion of a Hamas representative in the delegation.

It has been learned that in addition to Dr 'Azar, the delegation would include As'ad al-Saftawi as the representative of the refugee camps, which constitute two-thirds of the population in the Gaza Strip, and Attorney Fayiz Abu-Rahmah as the representative of the urban residents. At this point, the candidacy of Mansur al-Shawwa is not being considered.

Palestinian sources last night told HA'ARETZ that in the wake of its response to the Baker plan, Egypt has been increasing its involvement in the territories. Egyptian Embassy staffers also have been conferring with Palestinian activists in the West Bank to update them on the expected political developments. It also has been learned that Palestinian figures in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip received Egypt's response to the Baker plan even before the United States notified Israel about it. Fayiz Abu-Rahmah is currently in Egypt. [as published]

Brigadier General Arye Shifman, head of the Civil Administration in Gaza, met on Sunday with Al-Saftawi to discuss the composition of the Palestinian delegation as perceived by the Gazan leadership.

Fighting Terrorism Considered 'Calculated Risk'

TA0812111889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Dec 89 p 16

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpt] Chief of General Staff Dan Shomron warned yesterday that Israel could lose its army if it deployed massive forces in the territories to fight the intifada. He was speaking at a conference organized by the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University, to sum up two years of the intifada.

Responding to MK [Knesset Member] Rehav'am Ze'evi's demand for greater force in quelling the uprising, Shomron said: "We could have injected large forces. But whoever does that won't have an army left."

Shomron said that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] was taking a "calculated risk" in its fight against terrorist incursions. "If we use all our forces to counteract every possibility, we will not be prepared for war."

Commenting on the use of the word "war" in the context of the intifada, Shomron said that there are all sorts of "wars"—such as the war against poverty, or the war on inflation. The second year of the intifada was different from the first, because Israel had a comprehensive policy, Defence Minister Rabin said at the same conference. [passage omitted]

Writer Analyzes Changing Trends in Uprising

TA0812145689 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 8 Dec 89 pp 8, 9

[Commentary by Ron Ben-Yishay: "A Tie on the Field and a Political Freeze"]

[Text] This was a bad year for the intifadah and the Palestinians.

Since November 1988, when the euphoria reached its peak and 'Arafat rushed to declare that it was "15 minutes to the establishment of a Palestinian state," Palestinian activism has lost a lot of the momentum and initiative that characterized it during the 1st year of the uprising. In many areas there was even a regression from previous achievements.

The majority of the population in the territories, the same people who during the 1st year showed enthusiasm and readiness for sacrifices when they marched into the streets and played an active role in the uprising,

remained ensconced at home during the 2d year and were content to show only passive resistance;

The intifadah leadership—which failed to establish itself as a representative institution and managed to gain only feeble control over events—in wanting to employ the "popular committees" and the "strike forces" as its violent enforcement bodies, actually created a Frankenstein;

The civilian revolt and efforts to disengage from Israeli rule caused more harm to the Palestinians than to Israel;

The international media lost a great deal of their interest in the uprising, and the dialogue with the United States together with European pressure on Israel failed to collect the desired dividends for the PLO.

The single substantial Palestinian achievement this year was scored by the inhabitants of the territories. At a high cost and with a general readiness to suffer and sacrifice, they managed to institutionalize the uprising and turn it into a permanent feature—a rumbling volcano within the general political Middle East landscape, which Israel cannot calm and the world public cannot ignore. As the intifadah continues, each additional day deepens in the eyes of the world and the Palestinians themselves the conviction that they are entitled to self-determination and to liberation from the yoke of a foreign conqueror. But they failed in every other sphere, as we said, and the Palestinians here and elsewhere have been unable to advance their cause by even a single inch.

In the government complex in Jerusalem, when this fact is noted with satisfaction, people will no doubt likewise add immediately that during the 2d year of the intifadah, political pressure on Israel has eased substantially and that its international standing has improved beyond recognition. In part this is because the world media have been inundated to the point of satiation with scenes of the intifadah, but even greater is the fact that the Israeli Government wisely introduced its election plan, thereby filling the political vacuum created after the failure of the Shultz initiative.

The security forces also scored great successes in virtually regaining control over the area and reestablishing their deterrence, which they forfeited during the initial stages of the uprising.

It would appear that from Israel's point of view, the bottom line is rather favorable. Nonetheless, Israelis have no reason to rejoice.

Despite the weariness that seems to affect the inhabitants of the territories, the passive uprising is not waning or slowing down. On the contrary. The IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] policing missions, in which wanted men and casual passersby are sometimes accorded the same treatment and brutality that the strike forces exercise, have caused the spirit of the uprising to seep gradually into the awareness of groups and individuals that up until now have been standing on the sidelines.

The death of a child hurt by a plastic bullet, something reported every number of days, or a rubber projectile fired during the dispersal of a demonstration that causes a child to lose her eye are enough to sustain the motivation of the inhabitants of the territories and likewise nurture anti-Israel sentiments in the eyes of the world.

Given the backdrop of events in East Europe and the new world order taking shape before our very eyes, the ongoing erosion of Israel's image as a democratic, freedom-loving country should be a cause for concern. The superpowers, the world public, and even large segments of the Jewish community in the diaspora will not be able to tolerate much longer a situation in which Israel forcibly deprives 1 million Palestinians of the right to self-determination.

The IDF and the Shin Bet have learned to handle the violent aspect of the intifadah quite successfully, as I said before. As a result, civilian violence and terrorist activity staged by Palestinians against Jews (in uniform or not) has dropped to a more or less tolerable level.

Movement along the main traffic arteries in the territories is currently far safer than what it was several months ago, and even the Jewish settlers are not complaining about it. The Civil Administration has likewise managed to survive and, gritting its teeth, still functions and stops the population from disengaging itself from Israeli rule. Yet Israel continues to pay a heavy economic price because of the need to assign large forces of reservists and standing army personnel to policing missions in the territories, and to the disruption of trade and commercial relations with the locals.

The IDF has likewise sustained a cumulative negative effect in its level of preparedness for a future war, as well as in its readiness to ward off a surprise attack.

The 2d year of the intifadah has strengthened the Palestinian identity of the Israeli Arabs and, naturally, brought to the fore their frustration and bitterness over social and economic discrimination. As a result, the number of nationalist-motivated attacks involving Israeli Arabs has risen, even involving bedouins from tribes that have been known for their loyalty to the state and whose men have served in the army.

Yet the most significant developments arising from these Palestinian sentiments of solidarity and identification were in the political sphere:

The Committee of Arab Local Councils, which up until a year ago had only municipal importance and influence, has become a quasi-official national and political leadership for the Israeli Arabs. It now fulfills a role quite reminiscent of that played by the Jewish Agency in establishing Jewish settlement in pre-state Palestine. Among its other activities, this body tries to conduct its own independent foreign policy.

Similarly, parties whose main body of voters is in the Arab sector are closer now to forming a unified, solid political

bloc that could send between 10 and 14 Arabs to the Knesset. This bloc, which of course is non-Zionist, will be able to topple governments, undermine coalitions, and use blackmail—just like the religious parties. It may even turn out to be more determined and consolidated.

Another development is the rise in power of the Muslim fundamentalists. For the first time in the history of state, they are actively joining in leading the Israeli Arab public.

Nonetheless, the Israeli Arabs are still sitting on the fence. Their role as a minority in the Jewish state is no longer accepted without question, although they have not yet come to the point of staging an intifadah within the Green Line.

After the 2d year of the fight against the intifadah, it is still too early to assess the damage it has wrought on Israeli society and its humane image. There is hardly any doubt, however, that the soldiers serving in the territories internalize the brutality and aggression that rub on as they chase after stone-throwers in the narrow alleys of a casbah or refugee camp. One can easily see Israeli norms of conduct in Jabalyah and Bayt Sahur gradually trickle down to Dizengoff [Tel Aviv's main street] and Ofaqim. And what is worse, at the end of the 2d year, even the most hawkish of hawks understands that there is no legally acceptable military move to obliterate the uprising totally or bring about its imminent end. And no saving grace in the form of a political process can be seen in the offing, either.

In fact, the security forces have already accomplished 80 percent of their goals, providing the government with the time and opportunity to engage in a political maneuver free of pressures in the field. Yet the Israeli leadership is split, manacled by constraints, and paralyzed. It therefore cannot exploit these invaluable assets to enter into negotiations with the Palestinians from a position of strength, and, at the same time, take risks. All the Israeli Cabinet is capable of doing is to dig in its heels and persist in its traditional positions, and demand that the IDF, the Shin Bet, and the Civil Administration achieve the impossible in the hope that the Palestinians will ultimately break.

The Palestinian leadership finds itself in a similar or even worse predicament. The locals have been unable to breed a representative leadership or suggest a new strategy to replace those offered by the PLO in Tunis. The Israeli administration, which promptly sends to one of the "Ansars" anyone who begins to show signs of leadership or who emerges as a potential leader, largely helps this process too. It thus undermines the chance for an independent leadership to grow with which it will be possible to sit down and talk—without the PLO.

Matters are just as sluggish in Tunis. The radical Hawatimah and Habash constantly challenge 'Arafat's pragmatic political path, demanding that the armed struggle be stepped up. If they continue to obey and support "Abu-'Ammar" it is only because they, too, realize that the Soviet Union—with problems up to its ears—has, from their standpoint, dropped out of the game. The United States remains the sole lever that could force some change.

In the territories (mainly in Gaza), the rise of HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement] and other Islamic fundamentalist organizations that are even more militant also serves to unite the ranks within the torn and splintered PLO. It underlines the fear the PLO has had since the beginning of the intifadah that an alternative, independent leadership might arise in the territories which will bypass it, negotiate with Israel, and leave it out. In Tunis they know that if they cannot soon translate the achievements of the intifadah in the field into political achievements, frustration and despair will push many others into the arms of extremist Islam—whose plan leaves no room for compromise, either with Israel or with nonreligious Palestinians. Fatah is still the dominant force in the territories, but it fears what tomorrow may bring.

Paralyzed and constrained, ridden with rivalries and power struggles, the PLO leadership also is digging in along the political line it formulated 1 year ago and is not succeeding in taking the opportunity given it by Israel's election plan and Secretary of State Baker's proposals.

The tie on the field and the political freeze have led to the war of attrition in which Israel and the Palestinians are currently locked. The Israeli strategy of uprooting the intifadah accepts the attrition as a given situation in which it must operate. The defense establishment believes that the local activities by various units will succeed in limiting—and perhaps in the end also overpowering—the hard core of intifadah activists and in separating them from the passive majority. The rest of the population will slowly have to get used to the idea—even if they do not like it—that they cannot force Israel to negotiate with the PLO and that if they want to improve their situation they must accept what the Government of Israel has to offer.

The Palestinians also do not have a new strategy and are frantically looking for means to renew the uprising's morale in a bid to get U.S. and world public opinion to pressure Israel.

The extremist organizations call for a renewal of the armed struggle. There are weapons in the territories and they have the people to use them, but the Palestinians themselves admit that is not enough to start an all-out guerrilla war against the IDF and the Shin Bet. What can be done is to increase the attacks from Lebanon and to initiate limited but spectacular attacks inside the territories and the Green Line. These attacks will give a boost to the uprising in the territories and revive the interest of the international media.

Another line of activity to achieve the same ends is an overall civil rebellion that would include: a total boycott of the Civil Administration and goods from Israel, refusal to pay taxes, not working in Israel, and long

commercial strikes. This, however, apparently also cannot be implemented. The formula has been tried, and has so far not worked. The Unified National Command of the Uprising knows that since the intifadah began the economic dependence of the inhabitants of the territories on Israel has grown, and that despite the population's readiness to suffer there is a limit to what can be imposed on it. What is possible is more civil rebellions, including extended commercial strikes on memorial days and localized passive revolts such as on the Bayt Sahur model.

In the political sphere, there is a growing possibility that Jordan will return to the scene. The election results in Jordan aroused King Husayn and his court into reconsidering their attitude to the territories. They are under the pressures of the Palestinian residents of Jordan on one hand, and, on the other hand, the Muslim Brotherhood—the growing political force in the kingdom—to renew ties with the inhabitants of the territories. It is possible that the PLO will have to appeal to Jordan to reinvolve itself in the political moves.

The 3d year of the intifadah, therefore, will probably be characterized by an increased combination of attempts at spectacular attacks and outbreaks of civil revolt. It is also possible that the extremist organizations in the PLO will resume terrorism abroad and that Fatah will revert to actions from the northern border. In the political sphere, both Israel and the Palestinians might court Jordan.

All the above will increase international and U.S. pressure on Israel, but will not bring about a real change in the political situation or on the ground. As things appear now, only a major disaster might force all the involved elements to change their policies and cause some movement in the 3d year of the intifadah.

Demonstration Expected at U.S. Embassy 12 Dec

JN1212064089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0618 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] In Amman, demonstrations in support for the intifadah continued for the third consecutive day. Another demonstration was held in Amman yesterday and lasted 4 hours. The demonstrators then quietly dispersed.

Another Palestinian demonstration is expected to be conducted in front of the U.S. Embassy in the Jordanian capital this evening.

Martial Law Decision Returns Press Directors

JN1112172289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1620 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] We have received the following item for the newsroom: In pursuance of the government's inclination to abolish martial law and to reorganize matters accordingly, the economic security committee has decided to cancel its decision No 15/88 of 24 August 1988, which dissolved the boards of directors of the following public shareholding companies: The Jordanian Press Foundation—AL-RA'Y; the Jordanian Company for Press, Publishing, and Distribution—AL-DUSTUR; and Dar al-Sha'b Company for Press, Publishing, and Distribution—SAWT AL-SHA'B.

The new decision provides for the return of the former elected boards of directors of those companies to assume their full authority as of today, 11 December 1989, for 1 month, after which the necessary measures shall be taken—namely, inviting the general bodies of the above-mentioned companies to elect new boards of directors capable of shouldering their responsibilities and promoting the profession of the press while moving toward further press freedom.

It should be mentioned that recourse to the economic security committee to make this decision is the only available means to rectify financial and administrative decisions made by the martial administration, although there is an apparent contradiction between the inclination toward abolishing martial law and the continued use of it.

Journalists Reinstated

JN1212083089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Dec 89 p 1

[By Nirmin Murad, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Jordan's "fourth estate" Monday regained its freedom with a government move to reverse a decision taken in August last year to assume administrative and editorial control of the kingdom's three major newspaper establishments.

An official statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the Economic Security Committee (ESC) decided to reverse its Aug. 24, 1988, takeover of the Jordan Press Foundation, which publishes the Arabic-daily AL-RA'Y and the JORDAN TIMES, the Jordan Press, Publishing and Distribution Company (AL-DUSTUR), and the Dar al-Sha'b Press, Publishing and Distribution (SAWT AL-SHA'B). The statement said the management of the three establishments were being returned to the original boards of directors from whom it was taken.

AL-RA'Y and the JORDAN TIMES celebrated the return of their original board of directors by slaughtering a lamb at the door of the Jordan Press Foundation and a traditional "gun salute" in a grand welcome to AL-RA'Y editor-in-chief Mahmud al-Kayid and other members of the board.

Returning to his office 15 months and 16 days after seeing it being claimed by a government-nominated journalist at less than an hour-notice, Al-Kayid, a veteran two-time former president of the Jordan Press Association (JPA), expressed his satisfaction with the government's decision to reinstate him in his position.

"This is a new step on the road of democracy which the government has adopted lately through the holding of clean elections and the returning of confiscated passports to their holders," Al-Kayid told the JORDAN TIMES minutes after the decision was officially announced.

Al-Kayid added that a special tribute has to be paid to His Majesty King Husayn in light of his directives which led Jordan into this new era of democracy. "His Majesty's directives insure the security of the liberation of the press and the uplifting of all the unfair procedures which befell it," Al-Kayid said.

Within an hour of the decision, reporters and editors who were dismissed from their jobs during the rein of the government appointed supervisory committee were back at their desks at AL-RA'Y and the JORDAN TIMES. AL-RA'Y columnists Badr 'Abd-al-Haq and Fakhri Qa'war and JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Lamis Andoni received congratulations from their co-workers at the foundation as they made a triumphant return to reclaim their seats and corners in the newsrooms.

Monday's government statement said that the new arrangement was limited for a period of one month during which "special arrangements will be taken to elect new boards of directors" for the three establishments. The new board of directors will be entrusted with the task of "assuming their responsibilities and develop the role of the press in light of the new openness towards the freedom of the press," it added. Following the government take-over state-owned institutions had also acquired majority shares—controlling interests—of the three papers.

Al-Kayid said that the original owners would endeavour to buy shares in the foundation limiting the government's percentage to "below 50 per cent."

He said the Jordan Press Foundation would adopt "a national policy which will defend the grievances of the citizens and will avoid all the mistakes which took place this past year, opening its pages to all opinions and returning its relationships with all the public sectors and the unionists."

Columnist Qa'war who was elected to the Lower House of Parliment in the Nov. 8 elections, praised the decision of the government and said that it was the natural course to be adopted in light of the new democratic era in the Kingdom.

The Jordan Press Foundation's board of directors include: Mahmud al-Kayid as chairman and editor of AL-RA'Y, Muhammad al-'Amad as director-general, Raja al-'Isa, 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, Ramzi al- Mu'ashshir, Khalil al-Salim, Salih al-Rifa'i, Hasan Hammad and Radwan Hajjar.

Dar al-Sha'b Press, Publication and Distribution retains its editor in chief, Sultan al-Hattab, but voted in a new chairman of the board of directors and general manager, 'Abd-al-Hay al-Majali

Al-Dustur Press Publication and Distribution opened its doors to its original editor-in-chief Mahmud al-Sharif and reinstated its elected board of directors.

Monday's government decision appeared to have taken some observers by surprise who had expected a slow process of reinstatement of the original management of the newspapers. However, most analysts saw it as another series in the chain of events and the democratisation process launched in the Kingdom with the Nov. 8 elections, which were hailed as the most free and honest elections in the Arab World.

Monday's decision followed closely on the heels of another major development; the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran, who took office Dec. 6, announced in Parliament Sunday that all confiscated passports of Jordanian citizens would be returned without discrimination and all bans on travel and employment on such people would also be lifted. The prime minister also disclosed that his government was studying the negative and positive aspects of martial law before deciding to rescind it.

Official Source on Return of 'Seized' Passports

JN1212084089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Dec 89 p 3

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff writer]

[Text] Amman—The Departments of Passports and Civil Registration have mobilised forces to return confiscated passports and started receiving applications from the concerned citizens from Monday, informed official sources said Monday.

According to the sources, about 200 applications were already received by the Passport Department Monday.

The sources said the concerned citizens should call at the respective Passport Department between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. and file applications, whether for the return of seized passports or for renewals which were turned down earlier. The regular procedures of applications would apply in all cases except that no clearance is required for Jordanians resident in the Kingdom, the sources added.

But, Jordanians living outside the country have to go through the clearance procedures for renewing or acquiring new passports, according to the sources who pointed out that there was a law stipulating so.

The total number of of passports actually "seized" is less than 500, while those which were refused renewal since 1987 are 2,300, the source said and dismissed an Israel Radio claim Monday that the total number of "seized" passports was over 9,000.

The return of passports comes in line with a directive issued by His Majesty King Husayn and announced in Parliament by Prime Minister Mudar Badran Sunday. The prime minister, who took office on Dec. 6, also announced that bans imposed on employment and travel on people were also to be lifted.

Legislators Discuss Freedoms, Writers' Unions

JN1112113489 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Dec 89 p 1

[By Nermin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister Mudar Badran reaffirmed Sunday [10 December] the government's intentions to take concrete steps towards securing public freedoms as well as freedoms to travel and work for all Jordanian citizens regardless of their political affiliations.

The premier also said the issue of martial law needs a very thorough study of its implications and its positive/negative aspects.

"I wish I could cancel the martial laws, but this issue has to be studied thoroughly and I want all you parliamentarians to share this study with me," Badran told the Lower House of Parliament, which met in regular session.

Badran stressed that the directives of His Majesty King Husayn to return all confiscated passports to their holders and release political detainees have been carried out by the government. "We have already released 48 political detainees. But I want to point out that political detainees are different from convicted political prisoners because the latter need a special royal pardon," Badran told Lower House representatives who pressed the issue of public freedoms during the four-hour session.

The premier added that a "special committee to study the situation of convicted prisoners has already been established and this committee has not yet finished its study."

But the prime minister said the government would grant further amnesties to political prisoners as soon as the committee finishes a review of sentences passed on political activities.

Several deputies pressured Badran on the exact number of confiscated passports and the provisions which the government will make to ensure these detainees are granted their right to return to their work and maintain their livelihood. Badran quoted an old Arab saying: "They ask when did we get to the palace, we say yesterday afternoon."

He explained that his government did not yet have all the details on the situation but pointed out that the most important issue remains "that we are launching a new era which has to be appreciated."

The new era, he said, means "The launching of public freedoms, the uplifting of all injustice which we suffered from just as you did."

Badran said the current situation "is a result of accumulation of procedures over the years and it is impossible to erase all that had been done in seconds."

Badran, who took office Dec. 4, told Parliament: "There might be some people held under questioning, and I promise that I will look into their cases in light of the government's new policy of liberalisation within the limits of the law."

He added that the release of confiscated passports was done in a manner which will ensure the minimum psychological and physical anguish. "We gave all the passports to the passports department so as not to ask their holders to return to the security departments and to facilitate the renewal of these passports if they needed such a measure," he said.

The prime minister did not announce the number of confiscated passports and later said he did not know their exact numbers. Sources, however, maintain that more than 8,700 passports were being held.

Amman Deputy Ahmad al-'Abbadi, a former police official, distributed a statement urging the House to form a committee charged with studying the situation of citizens barred from work, held in custody or deprived of passports for security reasons.

He also asked the General Intelligence Department to provide a list of all these citizens to the House.

Another letter addressed to the speaker of the Lower House, Sulayman 'Arar, and signed by 37 deputies called for cancelling the military governor's decision to close down the Jordanian Writers Association (JWA) in June 1986.

"We also call for closing down the government appointed Union of Jordanian Writers and Authors," the memorandum said.

The deputies said that such a move would "allow the JWA to resume its cultural and literary endeavours."

Deputy Fakhri Qa'war handed in two memorandums to the speaker asking him to pose two questions to the government.

The first question dealt with a story which ran in a column in AL-DUSTUR daily and described the circumstances which led to the death of a 26-year-old man who walked into the hospital complaining of heart pains and died seven hours later for no explainable reasons.

Qa'war asked: "What caused the death of 26-year-old "Imad Yusuf 'Aziz Hassan? Is there any reason to believe that his death was caused by negligence from the University Hospital or the specialised doctor? Have there been any preventive measures taken to ensure that such a case is not repeated?"

In his second memorandum to the speaker, Qa'war asked that the following question be posed to the government:

"Why did SAWT AL-SHA'B daily dismiss a number of its editors, who are also members of the Journalists Association as well as several of the workers in the newspaper? Is there any intention to reinstate them in their jobs? Or is this only a link in the chain of dismissals which over-whelmed newspapers in the past year? Will there by any measures to prevent arbitrary dismissals in our newspapers?"

Tentative Titles of Political Groups Listed

JN1112184889 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 9 Dec 89 p 17

[Excerpt] Amman, AL-SIYASAH—[passage omitted] The subject of forming parties in the Jordanian arena no doubt is drawing the attention of a large sector of political figures who have begun to prepare for that phase. Political observers have monitored about 26 political formations that revolve around individuals, blocs, or mottoes, each of which plans to prepare itself to become an officially licensed party according to the national charter.

Nothing official has been defined in this regard. Hence, the names of figures and formations now circulating still are in their early stages. These figures and formations may undergo changes in positions and slogans before it is time to talk officially about parties. Following is an initial list of the blocs and names moving in that direction:

1. The Muslim Brotherhood under Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah. Although they reject the idea of forming parties, they will not hesitate to ask for license if these parties were allowed.
2. The House of Koran [dar al-qur'an], which is represented in Parliament by two deputies: Layth Shubaylat and Ya'qub Qirrish.

3. The Communist Party under Secretary General Ya'qub Zayyadin. It has one deputy in Parliament—'Isa Madanat.
4. The Islamic Liberation Party [hizb al-tahrir al-islami].
5. The Jordanian People's Democratic Party [hizb al-sha'b al-dimuqrati al-urduni], which has one deputy in Parliament—[Bassam] Haddadin.
6. The al-Ba'th Party with its two [Syrian and Iraqi] wings. Among its known symbols are: Sulayman al-Hadidi, Amin Shuqayr, Fawwaz al-Zu'bi, and Ma'mun Tuqan.
7. The Democratic Unionist Grouping [al-tajamu' al-wahdawi al-dimuqrati] under Dr Jamal al-Sha'ir. Among its members are Ja'far Tuqan and Attorney Na'ilah al-Rashdan.
8. The Constitutional Arab Grouping [al-tajamu' al-'arabi al-dusturi]. It is said House of Representatives Speaker Sulayman 'Arar has a prominent position in it, and that it comprises Deputy 'Isa al-Rimuni and Hani Abnu-Hijlah.
9. The Constitutional Party [al-hizb al-dusturi] or Grouping.
10. The Justice League [mujama' al-'adalah] which comprises Dr Muhammad al-Sabarini, Eng Muhammad Khayr al-Kilani, Zuhayr al-Kasih, and others.
11. The Nationalist Grouping [al-tajamu' al-watani], which comprises Eng 'Abd-al-Fattah Tuqan, Bassam Mashhur Hadithah, Mu'tazz al-Qutb, Dr Qays al-Sakit, Tha'ir al-'Ajluni, Hashim Abu-Hassan, Dr Usamah Madi, Dr Yusuf Siyam, and Fadwa al-Tall.

Additionally, there are formations which are being polarized by moves and efforts made by the following figures:
12. Ahmad 'Ubaydat.
13. Hamad al-Farhan, Sulayman al-Hadidi, Amin Shuqayr, and Taysir al-Humsi.
14. 'Akif al-Fayiz.
15. Hashim al-Mughrabi and Dr Fawzi al-Gharayibah.
16. Mahmud al-Kayid, 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, Faris al-Nabulsi, and Salih Irshaydat.
17. Mahir Irshayd, Muhyi-al-Din al-Husayni, and Carlos Di'mis.
18. Samih Bakir and Dr Shamrah Tannus.

The sources that report these names and activities believe most of these figures and formations may end up within two, or, at most, three parties.

Badran Takes Husayn Speech as Policy Statement

JN1112131789 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 9 Dec 89 p 8

[Text] Jordanian sources say new Prime Minister Mudar Badran will not present a policy statement to the House of Representatives, but will announce that the speech from the throne will be his government's policy statement for the next stage. Thus, Badran will guarantee a general acceptance of his government.

King Visits Prime Minister, Issues Directives

JN1112182989 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] His majesty the king, accompanied by the Chief of the Royal Court al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, called at the prime minister's office this afternoon. His majesty had a meeting with the prime minister, Mr Mudar Badran, and issued his directives on a number of issues. The meeting was attended by the deputy prime minister and interior minister, Mr Salim Masa'idah.

King Congratulates Saddam on Rocket Launch

JN0712164889 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Amman, 7 Dec (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn sent a cable of congratulations today to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn of the Republic of Iraq, congratulating him on the successful test launch of a satellite-carrier rocket system. The following is the text of the cable:

We received with great happiness and deep pride the news of fraternal Iraq's successful launching of a satellite-carrier rocket system from the space research center at al-Anbar base.

It pleases me to extend to you, to your brothers in the Iraqi command, and to the fraternal Iraqi people, in my name and on behalf of the Arab people of Jordan, our heartfelt congratulations and admiration regarding this great accomplishment. It comes as new evidence confirming the vitality of this nation and its ability to match and contribute to contemporary development. This accomplishment is a distinguished and qualitative addition to the fraternal Iraqis' record, which is reflected in the ability to build and invent in the service of their own interests, as well as those of their Arab nation.

I sincerely entreat God to protect you, your country, and your people and also to put at your disposal every means of success, impregnability, and happiness.

Prince Hasan Leaves on Visit to France, U.S.

JN1112134089 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan left Amman today for a working visit to France and the United States. His highness will hold talks with French President Francois Mitterand and U.S. President George Bush on Middle East developments. In New York, he will deliver a message from his majesty the king to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on international efforts aimed at achieving peace in the region.

His royal highness was bidden farewell by the prime minister, chief of the Royal Court, the chief chamberlain, and a number of high-ranking civic and military

officials. The crown prince is accompanied by his majesty's political adviser 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah. On his way back home, his royal highness will pay a short visit to Britain.

Editorial Calls for Iraq-Syria Reconciliation

JN1112125889 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Dec 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Positive Route"]

[Text] The Arab League efforts to put flesh on the al-Taif accord have taken them now to Baghdad where Iraqi thoughts on how to accelerate the Arab efforts to bring peace and reconciliation to Lebanon will be heard. The fact that the Iraqi government has wholeheartedly welcomed the Arab political itinerary to Baghdad and expressed readiness to lend meaningful support to the on-going Arab search for a viable solution to the Lebanese conflict is certainly a very positive development on the road to peace in that country. Iraq has become a regional power in the Middle East especially after its magnificent victory over Iran and the development of very sophisticated rocketry industry. It is therefore natural and indeed logical that Iraq plays its appropriate role in the events that are shaping the politics of the region.

Likewise Syria is also a regional power in its own right and its ability to influence the course of events in the Middle East is obviously a foregone conclusion. What has been fatally missing during all these past years is the interruption of communication and cooperation between Damascus and Baghdad. [sentence as published] This unfortunate state of affairs has had a negative effect on the quest for peace in Lebanon, not to mention other conflicts in the Middle East region. It stands to reason, therefore, that the highest priority be accorded to reestablishing brotherly relations between Syria and Iraq. Once this inevitable development occurs, the entire face of the Arab World would change for the better. The fruits of such a brotherly relation between two sister states will of course have a bearing not only on the Lebanese situation but also on the broader Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iran-Iraq relations. As a matter of fact Arab conflicts and disputes with their near or distant neighbours would begin to find opportunities for just solutions and resolution only when Baghdad and Damascus are on speaking terms on a truly brother basis. It behoves both countries, therefore, to make stronger and more persistent efforts to repair the bridges between them if not for their own respective interests then for the sake of entire Arab order and welfare.

It is with this backdrop that the Arab World welcomes the visit of Sa'ud al-Fayzal, the foreign mnister of Saudi Arabia, and Sayed Ahmed Ghazali, the foreign minister of Algeria together with the Arab league's special envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi to Baghdad to pursue the search for peace in Lebanon. With the future of the Arab efforts in Lebanon hanging on the balance, the success of the Arab visit to Iraq would surely determine which way these efforts should turn.

Badran, Industry Minister Meet Sudanese Minister

JN1112194589 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran has stressed the need to promote the spheres of cooperation between Jordan and Sudan in all fields. This came during the prime minister's reception of Faruq al-Bushra, Sudanese minister of trade, cooperation, and supplies. Ziyad Fariz, minister of industry and trade, also received the Sudanese minister. During the meeting, the two ministers agreed to expand exports between the two countries.

YAR President Arrives on 2-Day Official Visit

JN1212102889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] arrived in Amman at noon today on a 2-day official visit to Jordan.

The YAR president was accorded an official reception. His Majesty King Husayn led those who welcomed the YAR president upon arrival. The YAR president also was welcomed by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and a number of senior officials.

Badran Receives Syria's Al-Zu'bi Congratulations

JN1112181389 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] The Prime Minister Mr Mudar Badran received a cable of congratulations from the Syrian Prime Minister Mr Mahmud al-Zu'bi on his formation of the cabinet. In his cable, Mr al-Zu'bi praised the efforts underway to strengthen cooperation between Jordan and Syria.

Hostage Hospitalized Following Heart Attack

NC1112084289 Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 4 Dec 89 p 66

[From the "Last Minute" column]

[Text] A Hizballah source has told AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI that an American hostage has been taken to a private hospital after suffering a heart attack. Stringent security measures have been taken around the American hostage and the place where he is being treated.

Syria Fails To Get U.S. Hostages Released

NC1112085189 Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 4 Dec 89 p 66

[From the "Last Minute" column]

[Text] The timeframe that the Syrian authorities had asked the United States to give them to secure the release of the U.S. hostages in Lebanon has expired, following the failure of Syrian intelligence to get these hostages released.

Syrian intelligence had promised to obtain the release of the U.S. hostages by 20 November in return for a free hand in Lebanon.

Iran's Besharati on Release of Western Hostages

NC1112174489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati has declared that Iran has advised its friends in Lebanon to release the Western hostages they are holding. In an interview with the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH, the Iranian official said that whenever the atmosphere was appropriate for the release of the hostages, incidents occurred to disturb this atmosphere.

Kuwaiti Paper Cited on Nine-Point French Plan

NC1212103889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS has disclosed that France has put forward a nine-point draft solution designed to lead to a peaceful handover of power from Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn to President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

The French plan calls for the withdrawal of the reinforcements Syria recently brought to Lebanon, and for expanding the government of Dr Salim al-Huss so that it includes General 'Awn himself or his representative.

In return, the plan urges 'Awn to declare his acceptance of the article concerning reform in the al-Ta'if accord.

Regarding sovereignty, the plan calls on the government to undertake a study of a timetable for the Syrian withdrawal without any delay in accordance with the al-Ta'if agreement.

'Awn Urges France To Reconsider Stand on Accord

NC1212090789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] In a statement to the PARIS MATCH magazine, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn stressed that France must reconsider its stand on the al-Ta'if agreement. He said that the diplomatic language France is using in the Middle East is not producing good results, because countries must take decisive positions in this region.

Gen 'Awn said: Our will to resist is what allows us to continue to survive. He added that he does not believe in partition, stressing that the current situation resembling partition is a result of the Syrian presence imposed on a large part of Lebanese territory, where citizens cannot freely express their views. He pointed out that Syria continues to condone acts of terrorism and smuggling from the occupied Lebanese territory.

Regarding the people's fear about the resumption of fighting and bombardment, Gen 'Awn said: Fear is common to everyone, but one must choose between one form of death and another—either the death of the Lebanese identity at the hands of Syria or physical death. I prefer death to treason, Gen 'Awn said.

Wants Ambassador Retained

NC1112133289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn today asked 'Abdallah Abu-Habib, Lebanon's ambassador to Washington, to remain in his post. The [Al-Hirawi] government in Ablah had relieved Abu-Habib of his post.

Information Minister Reassesses Military Option

JN1012161289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Telephone interview with Lebanese Information Minister Edmond Rizq in Beirut by a radio reporter; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Hello, Mr Edmond Rizq, Lebanese minister of information.

[Rizq] Hello.

[Reporter] The military option against East Beirut is no longer being proposed, at least at this stage. How do you see the current political battle regarding the situation in East Beirut?

[Rizq] First, the military option was never proposed by the national reconciliation government. We are a government of peace and have never been a government of war. All reports about military options were merely attempts at intrigue or psychological tactics to hinder the peace process. From the very beginning, and as we announced at the moment this government was formed, our option has been one of peace—to use peaceful and reconciliatory methods and make the public aware of the facts while exercising our constitutional and legal powers and asking every government office and department concerned to carry out its duties. We are continuing this option to perpetuate peace on our Lebanese land and to establish the state's authority and sovereignty, through its own efforts, over all Lebanese territory. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] The Arab tripartite committee is currently touring some Arab and European countries. What is the committe's current mission?

[Rizq] We know that the committee has patronized the al-Ta'if agreement and the meetings in al-Ta'if and Jeddah. It is continuing to cooperate with the Lebanese authorities to complete the mechanism of the peaceful solution. [passage omitted]

The Arab tripartite committee's current international efforts promise to relax the Lebanese situation further. We still have faith in the Arab initiative and efforts and on cooperation between all the Arab brothers and the constitutional Lebanese authorities. An international climate also should be created to complete the solution in Lebanon.

[Reporter] All these are political developments. But suppose that the current political efforts fail; is there any option on the table, at least theoretically?

[Rizq] I do not want to anticipate matters, but it is well-known that every state with institutions uses all its means to overcome obstacles facing it. When our government appointed a new commander of the Lebanese Army, it charged him with ending the state of rebellion and disobedience by the methods used in such cases by all other armies. The Lebanese Army is known for its discipline and good conduct, and we depend heavily on the positive response of the officers and personnel to the march of national reconciliation and peace. We want our country to avoid further blood and destruction. All those who wager on violence in Lebanon will definitely lose, and so, too, will be the fate of those who defy the legitimacy. [passage omitted]

French Envoy Meets Al-Husayni, Delivers Message

NC0712154489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Following his meeting with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, French Ambassador Rene Ala stated that he had handed Al-Husayni a message from French National Assembly President Laurent Fabius on the visit to B'abda by a number of French deputies and their meeting with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn.

Ala asserted that his government's stand is based on the foundations provided by the al-Ta'if agreement to consolidate national accord. Ala believes that this will help rebuild Lebanese institutions, enhance national unity, and impose sovereignty throughout all Lebanese territory.

According to Ala, the French deputies who visited the eastern area of Beirut cannot accept the idea of partitioning Lebanon. Ala also said Fabius' message to Al-Husayni noted that the deputies visited B'abda without the National Assembly's authorization.

Arab Envoy Ibrahimi Meets Al-Hirawi, Departs

NC0712201489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi, who met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi before leaving for a destination which is believed to be Damascus, said that the Malta summit will have positive results for Lebanon soon. He pointed out that France has no right to seek amendment of the al-Ta'if agreement, because this is a Lebanese affair and was reached through the good offices of Arab countries.

Emile Lahhud Preparing Plan To Reunite Army

NC0812072089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] REUTER has reported that Army Commander General Emile Lahhud has prepared a plan to reunite the army and establish its command at the Defense Ministry. The agency cited an official statement in this connection which was issued after a meeting in Ablah yesterday which was attended by President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, Defense Minister Albert Mansur, and Gen Lahhud.

IUM Asks Muslim Ministers To Quit Government

NC1012081989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] As divisions continue to dominate the domestic scene, the Islamic Unification Movement [IUM] has called on the Muslim ministers to withdraw from the government so as not to be false witnesses [shuhud zur] to the partitioning of Lebanon. The IUM said that the ministers have no reason to stay in their positions if the partition atmosphere remains unchanged.

The IUM issued a statement saying that concerted efforts are needed to establish relations of understanding and fraternity in the Muslim and nationalist ranks. This would be a first step toward formulating a unified political and military program to end the partitionist

scheme, step up the resistance a
and give backing to the heroes gainst the Zionist enemy,
steadfast South. s of the resistance in the

Ja'ja' Proclaims Every Day 'Resistance Day'

NC1112221689 (Clandestine) R adio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] While addressing a delegation from B'abda area, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' emphasized that the present circumstances are now less delicate than those of last week. He said: We must use our weapon, our force, and our faith, and at the same time we must use our political mind and our relations with countries. Dr Ja'ja' added: We must take interest in our relations with the major states and with the forces that are concerned with the Lebanese issue and have political weight with the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly and with the region's states so that we can win.

Dr Ja'ja' said: We must prepare our intrinsic power through Arab and international relations and friendships and form a political and military force that can confront anything that might happen in Lebanon. He emphasized that by employing both of these means—the intrinsic power on the one hand and a group of Arab and regional alliances on the other—we can confront any event.

Addressing another delegation from the town of Fatqa, Dr Ja'ja' said: There has been much talk recently about the Lebanese Forces' position and about the timing of their action at this particular time. Many questions also have been asked about the reason for holding the resistance day rally and for its postponement. Regrettably, however, no questions, explanations, or clarifications propounded were correct or factual. He said that the Lebanese Forces' position has not and will not be defined now or in 100 years because their position was defined when the first youth took up the rifle to confront the first foreigner in Lebanon and to defend his country. Dr Ja'ja' added: In their structure, their action, and in their nature, the Lebanese Forces are here to defend the people against any foreign army which harbors evil or considers colonialism for the people.

Dr Ja'ja' said that the astonishment some people show about the actions the Lebanese Forces are leading now is out of place. He emphasized that during the present delicate circumstances, it is the duty of everybody to act, to group, and to prepare to confront these circumstances. He said that the Lebanese Forces have not acted during the past 7 months because any action possibly could have been misunderstood, or it might have caused some internal problems. He indicated that this occurred often at the expense of the Lebanese Forces. The Lebanese Forces, he said, will not act to give others a chance to act and to avoid any misunderstanding or gossip in society. Dr Ja'ja' said: All this happened when the Lebanese Forces were carrying out all their duties as unknown soldiers in the full sense of the word until the very last moment. All this is one of the simplest duties of the Lebanese Forces, which were founded so that the people might sleep while the Lebanese Forces remained watchful, and so that they and the Lebanese Army might defend Lebanon appropriately.

Addressing those who bank on a dispute arising in the eastern area, Dr Ja'ja' said: If you are banking on this, you will be dismayed. He advised everyone against banking on any dispute in the eastern area. Dr Ja'ja' emphasized: No dispute can possibly occur between the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese Forces as long as I head the Lebanese Forces. He noted that the resistance day rally was postponed because of weather conditions, and not for any other reason. He said that the rally will be held on another day. He said: Every day here is a resistance day, and this resistance cannot be postponed at all.

Giving an example of the gossip and twisted talk, the commander of the Lebanese Forces said: This evening, I was informed that an incident occurred between members of the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese Forces. I immediately contacted the chief of the general staff of the Lebanese Forces and officials in the Lebanese Army. In fact, a separate incident had occurred, but talk about the incident inflated the issue. After ascertaining that the incident was a separate one, we made several contacts with the hospitals to learn the names of the casualties on both sides. We were informed, however, that there were none.

Al-Tufayli Discusses Hizballah-Amal Clashes

NC1112080889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, Hizballah secretary general, has expressed his apprehension about the consecration of partition. He noted that this might be the beginning of the establishment of another Israel. This situation dictates that we act with all our strength to prevent such an eventuality, he said. At a ceremony held in Bi'r al-'Abd by the Islamic Resistance, marking 1 week since the martyrdom of Brother Nizar 'Awdah, he said that the people have tried all means with Maronism to no avail because the only successful means that the Maronites understand is decisive action.

On the recent regrettable incidents between Hizballah and the Amal Movement, Shaykh al-Tufayli said that what took place was deplorable and shameful. These painful wounds were caused by the failure to implement the agreement between the two parties fully. He stressed: We must settle this issue through total compliance with the agreement and we are most eager to adhere to it.

Fighting Continues Between Hizballah, Amal

1 Killed, 1 Wounded 10 Dec

NC1112180589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] Security sources reported today that last night Hizballah members opened fire at a pro-Amal demonstration in Libbaya Village. The demonstration was

staged to protest Hizballah's detaining of Amal members. At least one person was killed and another wounded in the shooting.

Clash in Southern Suburb

NC1212071889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] The clashes between Amal and Hizballah resumed in the Southern Suburb last night. Flat trajectory artillery and machineguns were used in the fighting.

In another development in Libbaya, western al-Biqa', one person was killed and four others wounded when people participating in an Amal demonstration were fired upon. The Amal Movement has accused Hizballah of opening fire on the demonstrators.

Meanwhile, clashes with rockets and machineguns occurred on the Suq al-Gharb combat lines last night. The exchange of fire continued until 0100 today.

16 January Group Claims Attacks Against Syrians

Rocket Fired at Roadblock

NC0912092489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] An explosion was heard near the Port Said intersection in the al-Minah area of Tripoli at 2010 yesterday. It later transpired that a rocket was fired at a roadblock manned by the Syrian special units. The attackers, who were from the 16 January Organization, exchanged fire with the Syrian troops and then succeeded in withdrawing.

Gunmen, Syrians Exchange Fire

NC1212091489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] The 16 January Organization has announced that its members opened fire at a Syrian occupation army post in Dayr al-Natur in al-Hurayshah at 0045 today. The attack resulted in the exchange of fire between Syrian troops manning the post and the organization's members.

The Syrian forces subsequently brought in military reinforcements from the town of Anfah and, supported by intelligence units, launched an extensive search in the area.

Lahd Approaches Israelis About Syrian Threat

JN0812144289 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Interview with Staff Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army (SLA), by Jersualem Arabic Television correspondent Salman Tawil in Marj 'Uyun; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Lahd, broadcast in progress] We cannot call the recent operations operations. They are more like mines that were planted in certain places. Perhaps when the road was inspected they were not discovered or precisely located. Then they exploded killing three of our men. However, this is not a military operation—not in the real sense of the word—carried out by military units. To warn them not to repeat such an operation, we carried out small operations with special units that entered villages outside the border security zone, demolished homes, and returned to their bases. This is all that has happened recently.

[Tawil] Could we say that the military operations in the border security zone have been increasing in the past year or not?

[Lahd] If we look at one year, 1989, the operations were fewer by far than in the previous 2 years, 1988 or 1987. In the past 2 weeks, some operations have increased. Mostly, in wintertime when there is fog, their mine-planting operations increase, because simply, it becomes easier for them to infiltrate our regions than it is in summer when observation is more accurate than now.

[Tawil] How do you explain the latest clashes between Hizballah and the Amal Movement?

[Lahd] This is a struggle for influence in the regions where they are present.

[Tawil] It has no relation to, or influence on, the border security zone?

[Lahd] They claim it is to strike at Israel and that their positions would be better if we.... [Lahd changes thought] Hizballah for example says, we strike Israeli and SLA positions more than Amal. Amal is not doing its duty. In fact, all this is just an excuse to control the territory in dispute—whether in the western al-Biqa' or the west, in al-Nabatiyah or otherwise.

[Tawil] It has been published that you asked Israel, based on a request made to you by General 'Awn, to help him. Is this true?

[Lahd] Actually, General 'Awn did not contact me nor did he ask me to mediate with Israel. I approached Israel on my own initiative when I discovered there was a danger that the Syrian Army would enter the eastern sector [of Beirut]. I approached them to find out whether they could do something to prevent the Syrian Army from entering the eastern sector.

Resistance, SLA Operations in South Reported

Israelis Come Under Fire

NC0912081789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] According to security reports, resistance fighters have attacked an Israeli position near Kafr Tibnit overlooking al-Nabatiyah. The position was hit, and fire was seen raging in the fortifications and ramparts.

Resistance fighters also attacked a position held by the agent militia in Anan, destroying a 12.7-mm machinegun emplacement and the troops' sleeping quarters. A 15-minute clash took place with the defenders of the position.

Majdal Zun came under bursts of sniper fire from the positions of the occupation forces and the Lahd militia in [name indistinct]. Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, and the al-Litani river basin also came under sniper fire from the positions of the occupation forces in 'Alman and al-Shumariyah.

The occupation forces shelled Haddathah, Bra'shit, and 'Ayta al-Jabal from their positions in Bayt Yahun and Haddathah hill, causing material damage.

According to reports from al-Nabatiyah, Kafr Tibnit came under sniper fire from the positions of the occupation forces and the agent militia on 'Ali al-Tahir hill.

SLA Denies Report of Clash

TA1112113989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] SLA [South Lebanese Army] headquarters in southern Lebanon claims that there is no truth to the report broadcast by the Voice of the South radio station that SLA soldiers killed two terrorists and wounded three in the Bint Jubayl area in the security zone.

SLA headquarters told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that several instances of shooting at SLA positions occurred last night and the soldiers returned fire, but added that subsequent searches revealed nothing.

SLA Man Killed in Blast

TA1112153889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Report by Menahem Horowitz]

[Excerpt] A large explosive device planted not far from the Zummarayya crossing blew up while an SLA [South Lebanese Army] patrol was moving through the area. An SLA soldier was killed and two others were wounded. A helicopter evacuated them to an Israeli hospital. The crossing was closed while a search was conducted. Also, several katyushas were lobbed into the area during the day. Nobody was hurt.

SLA headquarters reported that terrorists fired at various locations in the security zone during the night and morning. [passage omitted]

Israelis Reportedly Attacked

NC1112195089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] During the past 24 hours, resistance fighters have carried out a series of attacks against positions of the Israeli occupation forces and the agent Antoine Lahd militia in Zummarayya and Bra'shit hill [words indistinct]. The agent's radio has admitted the attacks and said that two resistance men were killed and three others were wounded [words indistinct]. Enemy forces shelled Haddathah, Bra'shit, and the outskirts of Tibnit in the central sector and the Mimis area in the eastern sector.

Israeli military aircraft last night flew over (Sibqin) and (Wadi Mukhaykhah) and fired flares.

According to reports from the eastern sector, resistance fighters fired katyushas at the Zummarayya crossing point and the agent's position on the Zummarayya hill, north of Hasbayya at 0730 today. Security sources in the area reported that the shelling caused three militia casualties.

LBC Begins Television Broadcast to al-Biqa'

NC1212073289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] As of today, the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation [LBC] will begin a trial transmission to the al-Biqa' region on channel 7.

The LBC asks all inhabitants of this area to contact it at telephone number 09-938938 to advise the corporation on their reception.

Air Flights Between Cairo, Damascus To Resume

JN1112192289 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad today received a telephone call from [Egyptian] President Husni Mubarak during which issues of concern to the two countries were discussed. President Husni Mubarak will dispatch a personal envoy to Damascus within the next few days. During the conversation, it was decided to resume air traffic between Syria and Egypt.

Transportation Minister Yusuf al-Ahmad has stated the air trips between the two fraternal countries will resume as of tomorrow, Tuesday. An Egypt Air plane will arrive at Damascus International Airport on its first journey tomorrow. Syrian Arab Airlines will make its first trip to Cairo on Wednesday, the day after tomorrow.

SANA has learned the two airlines in the two fraternal countries will hold meetings to make necessary arrangements to schedule the flights on a regular basis.

Iraqi Regime Support for Lebanon's 'Awn Alleged

JN1012205289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Continuing efforts by Lebanon's legitimate authorities, as well as those undertaken by Arab and international parties, are devoted to seeking ways to remove obstructions to the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement. The country's deputies, and through them the majority of Lebanese, perceive the al-Ta'if agreement as way out of the flames of destructive civil wars toward national reconciliation, security, peace, and the rule of law throughout Lebanese territory, the liberation of occupied territory in southern Lebanon, and the building of an egalitarian society. The current tour of the three-member ministerial committee on Lebanon is part of the urgent Arab efforts to save Lebanon—as safeguarding the unity of this sisterly country is a pan-Arab responsibility by virtue of the fact the entire Arab nation stands to lose from a successful conspiracy to partition Lebanon. The committee has announced through Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al- Faysal it has found President Hafiz al-Asad quite ready to work as one of a team to help the Lebanese state authorities.

Coinciding with the start of the Arab ministerial committee's tour was the disclosure of a visit to 'Awn by a delegation of Iraqi Army officers carrying a message of support from the leader of the hostile Iraqi regime. The message encourages him to persist in his defiance of Lebanon's legitimate authorities and the Arab unanimous agreement that the state authorities should be assisted in their drive to reassert themselves and reinforce their institutions, as well as to maintain Lebanon's unity and Arab character. In the meantime, agent Antoine Lahd has made it known he is approaching the Zionist entity to secure their support for 'Awn's treasonous enterprise against Lebanon and the Arab nation. The upshot of all this is the conspiracy to scuttle an Arab-sponsored solution to the Lebanese crisis and plunge it anew into destructive wars is continuing, and everyone knows who the culprits are.

Blinded by intense hatred for Syria for having opposed the Arabs being dragged into his senseless war against the Islamic revolution in Iran, the fascist Saddam regime is out for revenge in Lebanon, even at the expense of the country's unity and people. The Saddam regime is in the same trench with the Israeli enemy, which will not let such an opportunity pass without exploiting it to further its irredentist, aggressive plans. The Zionist enemy is the only one to benefit from any catastrophe that befalls an Arab country.

The question that must be in the mind of every Lebanese now is how to bring about the departure of the insurgent army officer 'Awn and remove the specter of partition. Having suffered long enough from the tomfoolery of the reckless general's toying with their fate and future, the Lebanese people naturally yearn for rapid salvation. The answer to this question has been provided by the country's legitimate authorities, which, while driven by an overriding ambition to satisfy the aspirations of the Lebanese people, and are capable of meeting them, have given a chance to all political efforts to spare the country further losses in lives and property. At the same time, though, the Lebanese authorities are aware this chance must be limited in terms of time, lest it be exploited by the enemies of Lebanon to consolidate 'Awn's position and then execute the plot to partition Lebanon, topple the al-Ta'if agreement, and kill the hopes cherished by the Lebanese for salvation and redemption from their trauma.

The Lebanese Government's concern to see its authority re-established over the entire Lebanese territory, as stipulated by the al-Ta'if agreement, without further bloodshed must in no way be misunderstood as weakness or indecision. Using their legtitimate means, the country's legitimate authorities have the power to remove any stumbling block. The entire world knows 'Awn and his supporters must be held responsibile for the potential consequences of aborting the political efforts being made. Then the messengers of evil dispatched by the Iraqi regime and the Zionist enemy will not do 'Awn any good. Sooner or later, he will have to foot the bill for his treason and intriguing.

The Lebanese legitimate authorities, which enjoy the support of all sectors of the Lebanese people, are capable of putting an end to 'Awn's treason and his playing with the fate and future of Lebanon. The legitimate authorities have at their command forces and instruments backed by overwhelming public support and by Syria, which never will sanction the disintegration and partition of Lebanon. Syria never has withheld any help requested by the brothers in Lebanon. Neither will it spare itself now nor in the future if its help is sought by

the Lebanese legitimate authorities to reassert themselves over the entire territory of the country and end the virtual disintegration and partition introduced by the Zionist enemy into the sisterly Lebanese state. Lebanon only can be a united country with an Arab affiliation and character.

Papers View Tripartite Committee 'Responsibility'

JN1212113089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Press review]

[Text] In its editorial under the headline, "'Awn's Rebellion is in Israel's Interest," AL-THAWRAH says: The failure of the Arab solution to end the Lebanese crisis means leaving the door wide open to serious possibilities. This proves once again implementation of the al-Ta'if document is a popular Lebanese demand, as well as an Arab and international demand. It is not in the interest of Lebanon and the Arab nation to hamper implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement or to prolong the current situation. In light of this, continuing rebellion or hampering implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement means bringing destruction back to Lebanon, which is what Israel, rebel 'Awn and the fascist regime in Baghdad want. This is leaves Lebanon open to the threat of partion. This is rejected by the Lebanese nationalist will and the Arab and international will. Based on this, saving Lebanon from its ordeal necessitates work by all means to deter the abnormal side—that is, providing cover to the Zionist occupation—from continuing in Lebanon. Only then will Lebanese legitimacy be able to control the situation, rebuild Lebanon and its institutions, and mobilize its human, political, and economic resources to liberate the occupied part of southern Lebanon and reinforce the capabilities of the Lebanese people to protect them from dangers.

On the same subject, TISHRIN says: The tripartite committee has realized before anyone else the true nature of the Lebanese dilemma, has diagnosed the disease, and pointed accusing fingers at the factors allowing the continuation of this disease. This requires all means be used to pressure those who are trying to prevent the administration of useful medicine that would enable Lebanon to restore its health and overcome all obstacles preventing it from playing its leading role in the Arab region, particularly in confronting the usurper Zionist enemy.

If the tripartite committee began its tour by visiting Damascus—to reach agreement on the future steps after the Arabs were unanimous on Syria's central role in helping the Lebanese authority restore its role, unity, and sovereignty—the visits that followed proved some capitals should exert pressures to support the Lebanese legitimacy through preventing aid from reaching rebel 'Awn and his clique and stop encouraging him to continue his suicidal course, which only will lead to further destruction in Lebanon.

The national accord government has stressed its right to use all legal and constitutional means to prevent the partitioning of Lebanon and to restore the unity of Lebanon, its territorial integrity, and the unity of its people and institutions. If the al-Ta'if agreement was the natural outcome of the Arab solution in Lebanon, the responsibility of the tripartite committee is to pave the way for the success of this solution and to remove all obstacles facing its implementation. It is true the responsibility of the Lebanese legitimacy is the basis of the solution. It also is true, however, the solution depends on the continuation of Arab and international support for Lebanese legitimacy, and on stopping all forms of support for the divisionist forces to enable legitimacy to play its role in full.

Afghanistan

French Official Leaves After Fact-Finding Tour

BK1112161389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1551 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul, Dec 11 (AFP)—A French Foreign Ministry official left here Monday [11 December] for India after a six-day fact finding mission that could influence France's decision on whether to reopen its embassy here.

Alain de Beaupuy, deputy director for South Asia, who was accompanied by two technical assistants, said before leaving that "everything is working at the embassy, there is no great danger for security." Mr. de Beaupuy said he would report what he had seen and heard to the ministry and it would be up to government leaders to decide whether and when to reopen the embassy.

France along with all North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries except Turkey closed its mission here in February fearing chaos after the Soviet troop pullout that was completed on the 15th of that month. France, like most other Western countries and even the Soviets, believed that the government of President Najibullah would fall to the resistance guerrillas and that a bloodbath would follow.

Poland and Bulgaria have reopened their embassies here, and both the United Nations and the International Committee for the Red Cross have expanded their operations here slightly since the withdrawal.

Indonesian charge d'affaires to Kabul, Havid Abdulgani, who has been in New Delhi for the past two months, paid a brief visit here last week, to explore the possibility of reopening Jakarta's mission to Afghanistan, which was also closed in February.

Security Court Sentences Saudi to 17 Years

LD1112180689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] The dossier of Zafir 'Ali, son of 'Ali, originally resident of the province of Abha, Saudi Arabia, was judicialy assessed recently after the completion of the primary investigation in an extended open session. An authoritative source in the national security special court reports to the BAKHTAR military section that at the judicial session, following the written defense and verbal assertions by the accused at the accustion posed by the responsibile prosecutor, and in consideration of the assertions by the witnesses in the case and other positive documents, it was proved that Zafir 'Ali, son of 'Ali, was hired by the Saudi Arabian intelligence service. He has illegally and secretly entered the soil of Afghanistan via Pakistan as part of the armed groups and Saudi Wahhabis to carry out sabotage and armed activities against the Republic of Afghanistan.

The aforementioned has undergone military training and learned to use arms. He was armed with a Kalashnikov as a member of Yunis Khalis' extremist group. He was arrested during an armed clash with the security forces in Nangarhar Province in which he was injured.

In the process of judicial assessment, Zafir 'Ali has confessed to the accusations and has explained in length the armed and destructive activities of Saudi Wahhabis, including those in some parts of Nangarhar Province.

The judicial delegation of the court, taking into account the aforementioned cases and based on the instructions of the Articles 221, 271, and 273, and the last paragraph of Article 275 of the Criminal Procedure Law, in the presence of both sides to the case, has sentenced Zafir 'Ali, son of 'Ali, resident of Abha Province of Saudi Arabia, to 17 years imprisonment from the date of his arrest, 11 July 89. The sentence was passed unanimously on charges of commiting espionage, participating in the armed anti-state groups, and helping the enemy, based on the instructions of Articles 2, 15, and 23 of the law on crimes against internal and external security of the Republic of Afghanistan and taking into account Article 156 of the penal code.

This order is not final and decisive based on the amended instructions of the Criminal Procedure Law and on the law on the formation and authorities of the courts of the Republic of Afghanistan. Both sides of the case have the right to appeal within the legal period of time.

BAKHTAR Views U.S. Ties With Mujahidin Alliance

LD1112193889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul, Dec 10, BAKHTAR—Differences and clashes among the Golbuddin and Rabbani extremist groupings have forced their Wahhabi and Pakistani supporters to directly interfere in their affairs, the Western mass media reports.

'Abdullah Azam [name as received] a prominent Wahhabi who was killed in a bomb explosion in Peshawar recently was striving to mediate among the said grouping. Now a Pakistani citizen Qazi Hussain Ahmad [name as received], associated with the Pakistani fundamentalists, press Golbuddin and Rabbani to prevent occurrance of differences and clashes among them in the future, the media adds.

On the other hand the radio BBC reported that despite the agreement concluded between that rival groupings to end their differences, it is not speculated that the local commanders would support it.

Severe clashes among that groupings are going on in the Takhar, Badakhshan, Jaji, Ghowr Band, Chiltal [place name as received] and other areas, the report says.

Organs of the Ministry of State Security confiscated 9 tonnes of essential goods on December 9 1989. The culprits were arrested and the case is under investigation.

According to another report the Voice of America quoting Zalmai Khalilzed [name as received], a specialist in the Afghan affairs in the state of of the USA says that he thinks that the Afghan issue was discussed in the USA-USSR summit talks in Malta.

Quoting S. Craft, advisor to the USA President in the National Security Affairs Khalilzad has said that he is optimistic on the results of the talk of heads of the two super powers about the political solution of the Afghan problem.

In regard to the recent visit of Mojaddedi, head of the seven alliance in Peshawar, to the USA, Khalilzad said that the USA authorities have informed Mojaddedi of the USA disappointment displeasure from the so-called extremists interim government. At first it was thought that government would be supported by the Afghans. But it did not come true. Mojaddedi's visit to the USA was not widely covered by the mass media of that country.

'Extremists' Detonate Explosives; 2 Injured

LD1112194189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 10, BAKHTAR—The criminal extremist elements backed by Pakistan and the United States of America today detonated explosives in the residential area of Pol-e Charkhi of Kabul city, which injured two persons and material damages were also inflected, reported BAKHTAR.

Report adds that, during the mopping up operations conducted by the government Armed Forces in the suburbs of Kabul city, 20 ground-to-ground Sakr-20 rockets 10 missiles and 80 mortar shells, were seized.

More than 30 of our compatriots who were wandering in Iran, have returned today to their abodes in Farah and Nimroz Provinces. The returnees after receiving necessary state assistance were transferred to their native places.

Besides, over 300 youths joined to the ranks of the Armed Forces in Nangarhar Province recently. In the past eight months over 3,600 youths have joined to the ranks of the Armed Forces there.

Troops, Armed Tribesmen Barred From Kabul

LD1112220889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Dec 89

["Statement" of the Kabul Garrison High Command—read by announcer]

[Text] The movement of members of the Armed Forces, the movement of armed members of tribal brigades in Kabul city, and their presence in the city of Kabul without being on leave or on temporary orders is prohibited by order of the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan. Violators will be arrested by operative groups of Kabul garrison and handed over to the responsible authorities for questioning.

For instance, today 9 armed and 80 unarmed people who acted against the statement of the Armed Forces Supreme command were captured and are under investigation. The Kabul Garrison High Command once again informs members of the Armed Forces and tribal brigades to pay attention to this statement; otherwise, violators will be treated in line with the law.

Bangladesh

Bomb Blast Follows Opposition Demonstration

BK0912103889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1029 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 9 (AFP)—Several bomb blasts rocked the Motijheel business district here Saturday at the end of an opposition demonstration, although no casualties were reported, witnesses said.

The blasts went off several metres from the headquarters of the national flag carrier Bangladesh Biman close to a column of police, who were stationed there because of the demonstration held to protest alleged corruption in the airline.

Some 300 demonstrators took part in the protest led by Retired Lieutenant General Mir Shaukat Ali, one of the leaders of a seven-party opposition alliance headed by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Begum Khaleda Zia. Also at the head of the protest was Nirmal Sen who leads the Krishak Sramik Samajbadi Dal, which heads a five-party opposition alliance.

Hundreds of armed police and paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles laid a protective cordon around the Biman offices and blocked major roads into the area, witnesses said.

The opposition alleged corruption by the airline during the recent purchase of several aircraft and the construction of a hanger at Dhaka's Zia International Airport, but did not give details.

Police, who greatly outnumbered the demonstrators, used loudspeakers to call on them to return home. There were no reports of violence.

The oppostion have been waging a long campaign calling for the resignation of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and fair elections. President Ershad came to power in a bloodless coup in 1982 by removing an elected BNP government.

Chinese Trade Delegation Holds Coopera ation Talks

BK0812133489 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Bangladesh and China have discuss ed ways and means to further promote trade and ot her form of economic cooperation. The discussions s were held between the visiting 13-member Chines e trade and investment delegation and the Dhaka Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Dhaka on Thursday [7 December]. The Chinese deleg ation led by chairman of the China International Cham ber of Commerce Mr Xiao Zou is now in the capital on a 6-day visit.

President of the Dhaka Chamber of Cor mmerce and Industry Salman F. Rahman said Banglades sh and China have the political commitment to promote e and extend economic cooperation between them.

Mr Xiao in his speech said the two countrie es are bound by fraternal links. It is only natural that the two sides will further consolidate their trade, economic , and other cooperation.

India

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Continues s Visit

Offers To Host SAARC Summ nit

BK0812104989 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0951 GMT 8 Dec 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpt] Colombo, 8 Dec (LANKAPUV ATH)—Sri Lanka yesterday offered to host the delay ed SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit in Colombo from March 8 to 10, stat es a PRESS TRUST OF INDIA news despatch from New Delhi received by LANKAPUVATH.

The proposal to host the fifth summit was c conveyed to Indian External Affairs Minister Inder Kuma ar Gujral by the visiting Sri Lankan foreign minister, Ra njan Wijeratne, during their hour-long meeting in New Delhi. Wijeratne told PTI that the dates would be co nfirmed by SAARC heads of state and governmen t. [passage omitted]

Claims India Trained 'Tamil Arm ny'

BK0812135589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1316 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 8 (AFP)—Sri Lank an Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne accused the Ind ian Army Friday of raising an illegal, 4,000-strong a rmed force called the Tamil National Army (TNA) in the island's troubled northeast. He also told reporters here before ending a two-day unscheduled visit that Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh had not p romised to take back Indian troops from Sri Lanka by De cember 31.

Mr Wijeratne said he told Mr V.P. Singh at an hour-long meeting Friday that the Indian army deployed in the island under a 1987 peace pact had trained the TNA "without our authorisation".

"I appealed to the prime minister to have them disarmed in areas where the Indian troops are still in control," he said, adding "the prime minister said he will look into that."

Mr Wijeratne said the Indian Army had trained the TNA over the past four months and armed them with sophisticated weapons such as mortars, automatic rifles and rocket launchers to fight rival Tamil guerrillas. The TNA is controlled by the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), a pro-India Tamil group ruling the northeast, and has been blamed for recent bloody attacks on Sri Lankan security forces in several areas.

Asked what Colombo would do if India did not disarm the TNA, the minister said after a pause: "We will first appeal to them. Arming is easy... we have several options."

Dozens, possibly hundreds, have died in recent fighting between members of the so-called TNA and Sri Lankan security forces, particularly in areas vacated by the Indian army since late October.

India has promised to finish withdrawing its troops, deployed in line with the 1987 pact which sought to end Tamil separatism, by December 31 under a bilateral agreement signed three months ago.

Mr Wijeratne said India still had about 25,000 soldiers in Sri Lanka's Tamil northeast, but said Mr V.P. Singh did not hold out any assurance that the last of them would return home by the end of this year. "It is up to us to await the response from India," he said, adding Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa was keen to see New Delhi speed up its withdrawal process.

Asked if ground logistics would permit 25,000 men to come back within three weeks, Mr Wijeratne replied: "If there is a will, there is a way."

Mr Wijeratne indicated stumbling blocks in his discussions here when he said: "Although the Indian political leadership is sincere, there is a queering of the pitch down the line. This can be avoided." He did not elaborate.

He said Sri Lanka had already sent the draft of a friendship treaty to India and that he reminded Mr V.P. Singh about it at Friday's meeting. "It is our president's desire that the historical links between India and Sri Lanka should be strengthened further," the minister said, and added that he discussed with the Indian premier steps to boost bilateral ties and trade. Mr Wijeratne handed over to Mr V.P. Singh a letter from Mr Premadasa, but did not disclose its contents.

Mr V.P. Singh told reporters here Friday that India and Sri Lanka should jointly seek to resolve their "problems," including the troop withdrawal which was now

underway. The prime minister, who was speaking after the swearing-in ceremony of a minister at the presidential palace, said his government's priority was to improve relations with neighbouring countries.

Mr Wijeratne agreed Thursday with India's external affairs minister Inder Kumar Gujral to strengthen ties.

India has lost more than 1,000 soldiers in fighting against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which has repudiated the 1987 peace accord signed by Mr Gandhi and Mr Premadasa's predecessor, Junius Jayewardene. Some 2,000 suspected LTTE rebels have also died in the fighting, which has almost halted since an indefinite ceasefire went into effect in the northeast in September.

Views Provincial Referendum

BK0812160189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, has said a referendum is likely to be held in the Northeastern Province in February as part of Indo-Sri Lanka agreement. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he said the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] government has nothing to fear as it will have under its control the police besides the Army support. Mr Wijeratne said that he has invited his Indian counterpart to visit Colombo as a follow-up after talks he had with him.

Mr Wijeratne urged India to accelerate the process of deinduction of the peacekeeping force from the island to meet the 31 December deadline.

Replying to a question, the Sri Lankan foreign minister said the next SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit will be held in Colombo from 8th to 10th March.

Concludes Visit, Departs 9 Dec

BK0912133089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, left for Colombo this afternoon after a brief stop over at Madras airport.

During his stay in New Delhi, Mr Wijeratne held talks with the prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, and the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, on the Sri Lankan Tamil issue.

Joint Press Release on Sri Lanka Talks Issued

BK0912092689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has said that the Indian Government has taken note of the Sri Lankan Government's concerns, including early deinduction of the peacekeeping force. He said India's response would be conveyed to Colombo after full examination of all the issues involved, especially the safety and security of all Indians in the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka. Mr V.P. Singh said that the whole spirit should be one of trust and cooperation and a joint endeavor for the mutual fulfillment of obligations. This was stated in a joint press release issued in New Delhi yesterday after the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, held discussions with the prime minister.

Our correspondent understands that the discussions, which lasted an hour, were held in a very friendly and cordial atmosphere. Both sides agreed that there was considerable potential for greater economic cooperation between the two countries as also in the South Asia region as a whole.

The Sri Lankan foreign minister handed over a letter from the Sri Lankan president to the prime minister and conveyed the greetings and good wishes of the government and people of Sri Lanka.

Nepalese Minister Offers Talks With Gujral

BK1212090489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] The foreign minister of Nepal, Mr Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, has expressed the hope that India-Nepal talks will be held soon. Mr Upadhyaya said in Kathmandu that Nepal is eager to sit and talk with India as early as possible. He disclosed that he has written to the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, conveying his availability to start dialogue between the two countries at any time convenient to Mr Gujral.

CPI-M Suggests Measures To Resolve Problems

BK0812155689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has urged the government to take immediate steps to increase the confidence of minority communities without any concession to reactionary or fundamentalist demands. The party said this is necessary to help strengthen secular and democratic forces in the country.

The Central Committee of the CPI-M, which met in New Delhi for 3 days, also suggested several measures as the immediate tasks before the government. These include restructuring of Center-state relations, formation of an interstate council, and effective control of the prices.

CPI-M Asks End to Terrorist Elements in Punjab

BK1112155989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] leader, Mr Harkishan Singh Surjeet, has asked the National Front government to unravel those political

and intelligence agencies which were involved in terrorism in Punjab during the previous government at the Center. Mr Surjeet was addressing a news conference in Jullundur today. He said the new government's objective should be to restore peace, contain terrorism, and put an end to the police excesses in the state before attempting any political solution.

Mr Surjeet said the recent Lok Sabha election results in Punjab is not a verdict for so-called Khalistan, but a verdict against police repression and Akali politics. Mr Surjeet welcomed the Akali Dal-Mann president, Mr Simranjeet Mann's resolve to find a solution to the Punjab problem within the framework of the Constitution.

8 Killed in Separate Incidents in Punjab

BK1012092689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] In Punjab, eight persons, including three terrorists and three security forces personnel, were killed in separate incidents since yesterday evening. Three terrorists, a BSF [Border Security Force] inspector, and a passerby were killed in Ferozepore District last evening. A large quantity of ammunition, including four rifles, was recovered from the dead terrorists. Two policemen were killed in Amritsar District while a terrorist shot dead a farmer in Gurdaspur District.

The security forces have arrested six hard-core terrorists from Patiala District and one from Faridkot District. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from their possession.

BJP Chief Demands Dismissal of Kashmir Government

BK1112160889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] The BJP president, Mr L.K. Advani, has demanded immediate dismissal of the Dr Farooq Abdullah government in Jammu and Kashmir and imposition of president's rule there. Addressing a news conference in Bhopal this evening, he said that the situation in the state has become extremely grave and the kidnapping of the home minister's daughter is an unfortunate example.

He said his party does not favor premature dissolution of legislative assemblies in Congress-I ruled states, but the poll results are clear indication of the unpopularity of the Congress governments and they should therefore resign of their own and seek a fresh mandate from the people.

He reiterated his party's commitment to support the new government at the Center and said the people's mandate requires it.

Arunachal People's Party To Merge With Janata Dal

BK1212035289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] The opposition People's Party of Arunachal Pradesh has decided to merge with the Janata Dal. In a statement in Itanagar, the general secretary of the party said that the decision has been taken in the interest of the nation and to strengthen the hands of the prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh. The People's Party of Arunachal Pradesh, formed in 1977, contested last month's Lok Sabha elections as a constituent of the National Front.

Tripura Opposition on 'Atrocities' of Parties

BK1212032889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] The opposition leader in the Tripura Assembly, Mr Nripen Chakraborty, has urged the prime minister to help in restoring fundamental rights and civil liberties in the state. A CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] press release in Agartala said that Mr Chakraborty has sent a copy of a memorandum listing details of the alleged atrocities on the political opponents of the ruling Congress-I-TUJS [Tripura Upajati Juba Samity] alliance after it assumed office in the state last year. The party is also observing Save Tripura Week, protesting against the alleged manipulations in the election process and also terrorism in the state.

West Bengal Ruling Front Withdraws Media Boycott

BK1012160189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] The ruling Left Front in West Bengal has decided to withdraw its 4-month-old boycott of All India Radio and Doordarshan [television] in view of the changed political situation in the country. The decision was taken at a meeting of the front in Calcutta this morning. The front spokesman, Mr Shailen Das Gupta, told newsmen that henceforth the two government media would be invited to cover government and front functions.

Prime Minister To Travel 'Like Common Man'

BK1112161289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, says he would like to travel like a common man on the roads and there will be no special traffic restrictions when his motorcade passes through. Mr Singh is reported to have directed the concerned authorities that his convoy should move along with the general traffic.

Iran

Press Official on Welcoming Soviet Tourists

LD1112221189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] The press and information director general of our country's Foreign Ministry, in an interview given to our correspondent today on organizing tours between the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] and the USSR for travellers, pilgrims, and tourists, said: Following repeated requests by the citizens of the neighboring country, the USSR, and within the framework of cultural and tourism agreements between the two neighbouring countries, the IRI declared its readiness to organize tours for travellers, pilgrims and tourists, and to receive citizens of the USSR who are interested in going on these tours. He stressed: Officials of the USSR have been informed of the readiness of the Iranian side.

The Foreign Ministry's press and information director general expressed the hope that the Soviet Government would assist in this matter in the near future. He added: The expansion of cultural ties and organizing pilgrimages and tours between the two countries will pave the way for expanded bilateral relations.

U.S. Naval Presence in Gulf Causes 'Insecurity'

LD1112212489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] During a special stage in the "Zolfeqar-5" maneuvers, Mr Torkan, minister for defense and logistics of the Iranian Armed Forces, termed the maneuvers successful. In an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent, he said the aim of the "Zolfeqar-5" maneuvers, on the instruction of Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sactified, is to train the Armed Forces during the cease-fire.

The minister added: The presence of both the Guards Corps and Army provides a fine example of the cooperation between these two forces which have stood alongside each other during 8 years of holy defense, and still support each other today.

He said that the presence of the U.S. vessel "New Jersey" in the region caused insecurity and said: The security of the Persian Gulf region is the responsibility of the countries of the region. We are strong enough to safeguard this security, and as always, we have a presence with aspiration, belief, and our own reasoning.

The Armed Forces minister for defense and logistics stressed: It is in America's interests to leave the region. He termed the state of the Armed Forces equipment and arms as good and satisfactory, and announced that during the 5-year plan of the country, this strength will increase.

Launch of Indigenously Built Boat Planned

LD0912151589 Tehran IRNA in English 1423 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] Bandar-e Anzali (Caspian Sea), Dec. 9, IRNA—A first Iranian-made military roving boat is to be launched here in the first week of February 1990 when the nation will celebrate the eleventh anniversary of the triumph of the Islamic revolution in a ten day national festivity (February 1-11).

Designed by the marine industries division of the Defence Industries Organization, the roving boat weighs 50 tons, and is 20 meters long and six meters wide, and has a draft of a little more than one meter.

The roving boat cruises at a speed of 19 knots and can carry 20 persons at a time. It has been designed and manufactured entirely by Iranian experts and thus far 150 million rials (dlrs 2.1 m) has been expended for building operations.

A military and Marine Industries official said to reporters here today that once requisitions are supplied the Iranian manufacturers will be able to tackle more ambitious projects in the future.

Velayati Leaves for Meeting With UN Chief

LD1012144989 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 10, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left here for New York Sunday morning for talks with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on resumption of negotiations on Resolution 598.

In an interview before departure, Velayati expressed hope that Iran's recent proposal on simultaneous withdrawal of Iraqi troops and exchange of prisoners of war which has been welcomed by political circles, will be accepted by Baghdad. He stressed that Iran was ready to cooperate in carrying out the U.N. decisions aimed at breaking the deadlock in the peace talks and implementing the resolution.

While in New York Velayati will also attend the annual meeting of the third committee of the U.N. General Assembly on apartheid and racism.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz is also scheduled to hold a separate meeting with Perez de Cuellar next week.

KEYHAN Commentary on Human Rights

NC1112152989 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 3 Dec 89 p 18

[M. Sa'adat commentary: "The United Nations and the Repetitive Scenario of Human Rights"]

[Text] A UN representative is planning to visit Iran to study the conditions of prisoners and human rights in Iran.

Before the UN representative's trip, fugitive terrorists have repeatedly complained to the United Nations by presenting forged documents and astronomical and imaginary figures on human rights violations in Iran. The truth is that since its establishment, the United Nations has been unable to put the Human Rights Declaration into practice because of the presence in the United Nations of arrogant powers.

Even though the "Human Rights Declaration" appears beautifully humanitarian on paper, in practice and in the hands of the countries ruling the United Nations, it has become exactly the opposite and has become a club wioth which to beat rising nations. For the "Human Rights Committee" the implementation or non-implementation of the principles in the declaration are of little importance. If a nation bows its head to the oppressive desires of the influential superpowers in the United Nations, it is considered by the directors of this committee to be the "cradle of freedom" and "the defender of human rights." If a nation refuses to give in to such abjectness, however, it is considered to be a "violator of human rights."

For example, after the victory of the Islamic revolution when the big colonialist powers saw that they had lost their illegal interests, the United Nations and related forums began to act against the Islamic Republic.

During the wretched rule of the shah, the torture and massacre of thousands of Iran's Muslim ummah in the prisons and in the streets were described as a defense for human rights by then U.S. President Carter. But the punishment of the actual perpetrators of all these crimes and massacres by the forces of the Islamic revolution became an object of protest at the United Nations; and the ending of corruption and prostitution and of the manifestations of colonialist culture were interpreted as cultural limitations by "the economic-social council" and other UN-affiliated "cultural" institutions.

The "Human Rights Committee" did not show the least reaction when the hypocrite [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] terrorists and subversive, atheist groups were pitilessly massacring people in Iranian cities and in areas such as Kordestan and Amol. It protested, however, against the punishment of these very criminals and began a propaganda campaign to serve world arrogance.

At any rate, today the entire gamut of bankrupt and fugitive hypocrites, Marxists, treacherous elements, monarchists, and murderous generals have joined with the big arrogant powers, and by resorting to the United Nations and the "Human Rights Committee," they are making a futile attmept to distort world public opinion concerning the revolution of the Iranian people, wrongly believing they can undermine the strong will of the Iranian nation.

Those very terrorists who did not show any compassion toward the people on the street are living in their safe houses in Baghdad, Paris, and Washington, and are living a comfortable life using the money they receive for mercenary services to foreign governments.

The actions by terrorist and counterrevolutionary grouplets in general and by the hypocrites in particular against the Muslim Iranian people is no secret. There are numerous documents and facts that show how people were martyred by the hypocrites based only on the "accusation" of having a "picture" of their imam and leader or for "being in simple garb and having a simple appearance."

In the bombing which led to the martyrdom of officials and Friday imams of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in torturing and burying alive Revolution Guards, in setting fire to homes and public vehicles, in burning alive several innocent children in buses of the Bus Union, and finally, in each and every incident where the most basic principles of human rights were violated, the hands of the fugitive counterrevolutionaries are stained with blood. For this reason, the Muslim people of Iran who have suffered so much ask: Has not an organization, which closes its eyes to all these bitter truths in order to feed the greed of the superpowers and world arrogance and does not make the least protest against these crimes, become incompetent as an organization which defends "human rights"?

Do not any of the numerous paragraphs of the "Human Rights Declaration" contain anything about defending all these oppressed human beings? Then why does this vast organization and its various committees not do their duty and rise to defend rights that have been trampled on?

Has not the time come for us to witness, even only once, in deed and not in word, the "Human Rights Committee's" defense for the most basic and just rights of the Muslim Iranian people; that is, their freedom to live and to think and to act against the bullets of counterrevolution? Has not the time come for us to witness the punishment of the counterrevolutionary dregs so that they will not sell so many lies to the Human Rights Committee in order to escape punishment?

Romanian Officials Prepare for Ceausescu Visit

NC1212072389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] The Romanian deputy ministers of machinebuilding and energy arrived in Tehran last evening and were welcomed by officials of the Foreign and Industries Ministries and the Plan and Budget Organization.

The two Romanian deputy ministers and some Romanian experts are visiting Tehran to prepare for Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu's upcoming visit to Iran and the convocation of the seventh session of the joint economic commission of the two countries.

Delegation Returns From DPRK; Reza'i Comments

LD0812180989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Dear listeners. Our colleagues now have a report about the return to Tehran of Mr Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], after his trip to North Korea.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Mohsen Reza'i, the IRGC commander, who went to Pyongyang to hold talks with DPRK officials, has now returned to Tehran. At the end of the 6-day visit, which took place within the framework of the two countries' joint military commission, a military agreement was signed by officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the DPRK. Let me ask Mr Mohsen Reza'i to tell us about the important points of the agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the DPRK.

[Reza'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Following the visit of the honorable Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the early days of the revolution and the fruitful trip of the dear leader of the revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, to the DPRK, the Islamic Republic's ties with that country expanded, and we went there in order to pursue and follow-up military matters. During the trip, the joint defense commission between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the DPRK was agreed to and signed.

On the basis of the agreement, we held discussions about the exchange of training experiences, combat experiences, the exchange of technology and armaments, scientific and cultural cooperation in the Armed Forces and in connection with military matters; and, bearing in mind the brief time, God be praised, all the relevant commissions which were formed there achieved very good results.

We visited the military bases of the DPRK. We visited garrisons; we saw their method of organizations and their shelter-building method. We saw the manner in which North Korea's Armed Forces participated in the reconstruction of their country. They had organized some maneuvers to mark the arrival of the delegation; it was a joint ground-air operation. We participated in the maneuvers and witnessed their combat tactics.

The brothers in the delegation included the honorable Mr 'Araqi, the acting representative of the supreme jurisconsult to the IRGC; Mr Borujerdi, Mr Velayati's deputy; deputies from the Ministries of Oil and Jihad, and the honorable members of the Majles' budget, defence, and industries commissions; the dear brothers from the Army; and representatives from the Armed Forces General Command. We were able, God be praised, to achieve important aims.

Throughout the war, the North Korean Government demonstrated its friendship toward the Islamic Republic of Iran in practice. They said the Iraqis had recently pressed for a resumption of ties; they rejected this proposal and said they will not have friendly ties with Iraq until it leaves the occupied territory of the Islamic Republic.

Further on Reza'i's Statement

LD0912114989 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 9, IRNA—Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Reza'i here Friday [8 December] said that if international powers failed to materialise implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598, Iran would have no alternative but to liberate its occupied territories by the power of its Armed Forces.

Reza'i, speaking at Mehrabad International Airport upon arrival from a six-day visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), stressed, "Iranian people and officials could tolerate Iraq's obstructions and irrational position up to a certain point."

The IRGC commander described outcome of his visit to the DPRK as "excellent", adding that an agreement concluded between the two countries paved the way for joint cooperation in the field of defence and exchange of military know-how. He said that his talks in Pyongyang focused mainly on defence subjects which will produce results in the long run.

The Iranian delegation inspected a number of military garrisons in the DPRK and became acquainted with the structure of the armed forces in that country.

Reza'i termed the DPRK's stance vis-a-vis the Resolution 598 as "good" and said that Iraq had recently called for establishment of ties with the DPRK which Pyongyang conditioned to Iraq's withdrawal from Iranian occupied territories.

Iraq Asks Turkey To Return 138 Kurdish Refugees

NC1212101389 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] The Iraqi regime has demanded the return of 132 leading Kurdish refugees living in refugee camps in Turkey on the grounds that they are under investigation for smuggling. According to an IRNA report from Ankara, the names of these Kurds have been submitted to the regional governor, appointed in the state of emergency, in southeastern Turkey by the governor of Dahuk.

It is believed that Iraq's request was prompted by Turkey's demand for the surrender of the murderers of about 30 people on the border between the two countries.

Meanwhile, one of the representatives of the Kurdish refugees in Turkey, Naif Ibrahim, has submitted an appeal to the state of emergency regional governorship in southeastern Turkey claiming that the Iraqi regime will execute the refugees if they are handed over to the Iraqi

regime. Describing the Iraqi regime's claim as unfounded that the the Kurds requested by Iraq are smugglers, Naif Ibrahim recalled that the Iraqi Kurds sought refuge in Turkey to escape from the Iraqi regime's chemical bombings.

Habibi Meets With New Ambassador to Turkey

NC1212101789 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Ambassador Mohammad Reza Baqeri, who has been accredited to Turkey, was received by the first presidential deputy, Dr Habibi, today before he departs to assume his responsibilities in Turkey. Dr Habibi stressed the importance of bilateral relations and noted that relations between the two Muslim and neighboring countries should be developed.

Interior Minister Cited on Foreign Nationals

NC1012081489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] At the end of his visit to the Sistan area, Interior Minister Nuri pointed out that the Islamic Republic's security forces will confront any violation by foreign nationals and will also seek to prevent their illegal entry into and departure from the country.

IRNA reports he also said that many foreigners living in Iran are good and virtuous people. He declared: The Interior Ministry is determined to confront corrupt foreigners and law violators, as well as those without valid identity cards. Mr Nuri added that those foreigners living in Iran who have valid identity cards and are well behaved will continue to be the Islamic Republic's guests, as in the past.

The interior minister, who inspected the reconstruction of areas damaged by the recent floods in Sistan, said: The people and officials have made serious moves to accelerate reconstruction and improve the situation of the villages affected, as well as helping the farmers of the Sistan va Baluchestan area. We hope the practical results of these steps will be seen as soon as possible.

Hashemiyan Addresses Majles on Intifadah

LD1112162589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Our correspondent has compiled a report on the start of the debate on the first economic, social and cultural expansion project in today's Majles open session:

[Correspondent] The debate on the bill pertaining to the first economic, social, and cultural expansion project of the Islamic Republic of Iran began in today's Majles open session, and proposals by the deputies on three clauses of this bill were ratified. According to the first clause of this bill, permission has been granted to the Cabinet to have access to the credit facilities of the banking system up to the value of 1,210 billion rials in the course of 1368 [Iranian year beginning 21 March 1989], 1,439 billion rials in 1369, 1,211 billion rials in 1370, and 323 billion rials in 1371, to provide part of the general credit of the first plan during every year covered by the plan. This sum will reach zero by 1372. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Today's Majles open session was first chaired by Mr Hashemiyan, the first undersecretary, and continued under the chairmanship of Mr Bayat, the second undersecretary. Mr Hashemiyan, in a speech on the anniversary of the Islamic uprising of the intrepid nation of Palestine, remarked that the uprising of the fearless nation of Palestine is a movement which reflects the depth of pure Islamic thinking. He said: No doubt, this uprising will in the future terminate the rule of the usurper regime in Israel for good. The Palestinian nation has well understood this struggle and is aware that conciliatory organizations will not be prepared to grant Palestine its freedom. No doubt, if the Muslims carry out the Islamic movement with profound sincerity, they will terminate this diabolical rule of the usurper Israel. Every Muslim is dutybound to combat aggressors and invaders. The Majles undersecretary reiterated that all Muslim nations and supporters of the Palestinian uprising should rush to the aid of their brothers and sisters in Palestine, with all their might.

He also expressed his sorrow over the actions of some so-called Islamic Palestinian organizations and reactionary governments in the region regarding the Palestine uprising. He described their actions as a move toward mitigating the Palestinian nation's uprising.

Mr Hashemiyan then referred to the arrival of U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf region, and severely condemned such actions. He warned that the presence of U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf iwill not have positive results for that country. He also stressed that safeguarding peace and tranquillity in the region is the responsibility of the countries and nations in the region, and that the U.S. presence in the region is aimed at inciting provocation and tension.

Commentary Marks 2d Anniversary of Intifadah

NC0912112789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0450 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] Yesterday, 8 December marked the beginning of the 3d year of the Muslim Palestinians' revolution. Two years ago, four Palestinians were martyred by the Zionists in a car accident in the Jabalya Palestinian camp. Followng this incident, several residents of the camp immediately gathered at the scene of the accident and started demonstrating. As usual, the occupying forces opened fire on the people, trying, as always, to disperse them and end the incident. But this very crushing of a small protest was the spark that ignited the powder keg

and triggered an uprising unprece edented in 41 years, since the occupation of Palestine.

It is true the existing situation ha d created favorable conditions for the start of the uprisi ng. But what was this situation? Following the defeat suffe red by Arab govern ments at the hands of the Zionist t regime during the 6-day war 22 years ago, the West Ba nk, the Gaza Strip, and the old city of Jerusalem we re occupied by the Zionists. During this period a gener ation grew up which, since its birth, had constantly tast ed the bitterness of occupation and suppression. After r the Camp David agreement, the occupying regime was gradually pre paring itself to annex the West Bank and the Gaza Strip forever.

Another important element, along with the moral ele ment, in the new Palestinian generation was the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran and the expansion of its influence among the Muslims of the area, particularly among the Palestinian youths who saw how all the imported ideas and all the various political schools of thought that had been used for Palestine's liberation had been defeated. However, a new way to a solution to the crisis could be seen on the horizon. This path had been charted by the soldiers of Muhammad, peace be upon him and his scion, who were showing their steadfastness in the imposed war. This new method had been previously tested in Lebanon and emerged victorious. Seven years ago, the Israeli regime carried out its extensive aggression against Lebanon, advancing on Beirut and occupying it. At that time, the heads of this regime thought, on the basis of a simple calculation, that with the defeat of the PLO forces and their expulsion from Lebanon and, especially, the south, they would be able to complete their plan. They thought that by bringing to power a puppet president from the Al-Jumayyil family, they would be able to fulfill their longstanding desire: complete domination over their northern neighbor. But after 'Arafat's agreement with Philip Habib, the Palestinian forces led by 'Arafat boarded French ships headed for Arab countries. This was followed by the explosion at the U.S. and French Marines headquarters in Beirut. After that incident, the headquarters of the Zionist military command in the south changed everything, and the popular struggles in southern Lebanon, led by Muslim and revolutionary youths, expanded so much that the occupying regime suffered the biggest military defeat in its history. It was obliged to retreat from large portions of Lebanon in three phases.

Thus, the victory of revolutionary Muslims in the fight against the occupiers of southern Lebanon was a fine lesson for the Palestinian youths in the occupied territories; it made them believe more strongly that they could force the Israeli regime to retreat.

Meanwhile, 2 years ago the world situation was such that Palestinian Muslims clearly saw how the Palestinian crisis had become a forgotten problem. First, the Arab countries, which for a long time had used Palestine as a political pretext in all their statements while taking no action whatsoever, omitted the Palestinian issue for the first time from their list of priorities in their extraordinary session in Jordan. These countries were so terrified by the victories scored by the combatants of Islam in the imposed war that in their statements they all began to condemn Iran as the source of the Islamic revolution.

This same lack of attention could also be seen at that time in the superpower summit that took place between Reagan and Gorbachev. Neither these two nor many world analysts could have hazarded a guess that, only a few days after this meeting, Palestine would re-emerge as the most critical problem of the Middle East.

All these conditions made Palestinian youths believe that neither the Arab countries nor the superpowers have ever seriously wanted to solve their problem and that all the past efforts by Palestinian leaders met with obstacles. These youth had grown up full of hatred for the occupiers who killed, arrested, or exiled them with such ease; and they started an Iranian-style uprising.

During these 2 years, the Muslim Palestinians have been on strike every day. Shops are open only a few days or hours a week to supply the people's needs. During this period, the Palestinians have learned the method of struggle well, and have tried, by creating the conditions for economic independence, to ease the pressures of the daily strikes and undermine the plans of the occupying regime which was sure that economic problems would bring the people to their knees.

On the pretext that the uprising was being staged in the schools, the occupying regime often closed down all the schools in the occupied territories for long periods. The people themselves, however, formed education committees in order to ensure that their children's education would continue.

The uprising of the Muslim Palestinians also scored yet another great victory in world public opinion. Until then, the propaganda monopolies coupled the name of Palestine with terrorism and hijackings, and portrayed the occupying enemy as the sole, democratic regime in the region. After a while, however, as the uprising spread, this attitude changed. The people all over the world clearly saw how people who had risen up to liberate their territory were so casually being killed by the Israeli regime, which used the most brutal and harsh methods.

Thus, while the Muslim Palestinians' uprising has been able to strengthen itself domestically, it has also won world public opinion over to its side. More importantly, it has been able to put the Zionist regime in its most critical situation for the past 22 years.

During the past 2 years, there have been three types of approaches to the uprising in the region and in the world. One has been the wish to support fully the uprising, which is expressed by the Muslim people of the region; this itself has caused many problems for dependent regimes such as Egypt and Jordan. The second wish is to

crush the uprising. This approach is being taken by the Zionist regime and its everlasting mentor, the United States. The third wish is to use this uprising to forward political objectives; this is the wish of the PLO, led by 'Arafat.

The PLO, which is actually a front for traditional Palestinian forces, has conceded everything to the enemy. By declaring an independent Palestinian state and accepting the existence of the Israeli regime, it has practically reached the end of its road of struggle. It hopes that by creating a new atmosphere and exploiting its talks with the United States, it can make the enemy give up its longstanding enmity and accept the Palestinians' right to determine their own destiny and to rule the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It is clear, however, that the Zionist regime will never agree to this. Vis-a-vis the PLO's political pressures, it has only agreed to propound a plan on the basis of which local elections would be held, without the PLO's interference, on granting limited autonomy to the occupied territories. The new U.S. Administration in turn has supported Shamir's plan and has itself propounded a five-point plan which neither names the PLO nor says anything about the right of self-determination or the holding of an international peace conference.

Thus, the Palestinian crisis has not reached a specific level in the political field; it has now placed all its hopes in the plan propounded by James Baker, U.S. secretary of state, hoping to find a place for itself in the upcoming talks.

All these political shortcomings faced by the PLO, the United States, and the Israeli regime have more than ever before helped the growth of Islamic Palestinian organizations. The actors in the compromise play are warning each other that the Muslim fundamentalists will take over if measures are delayed.

It is clear these warnings are not merely aimed at terrifying the rival. They manifest the existence of a true concern, and this stems from the fact that Islamic Palestinian groups are not only not ready to compromise and compile political plans with the United States and Israel, but to reject any type of limited autonomy; they desire the liberation of all Palestine.

In view of these conditions, the uprising of the Muslim Palestinians, which entered its 3d year yesterday, will continue and will further weaken the occupying regime.

Khamene'i Decree Appoints New Qeshm Friday Imam

NC0912092889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] On the basis of a decree issued by His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i, the vice regent of the supreme jurisconsult, the Central Secretariat of Friday Imams has appointed Hojjat ol-Eslam Reza Nateq as the Friday imam of Qeshm.

IRNA reports that the Central Secretariat of Friday Imams has called on the revered clergymen and worthy people of Qeshm, and particularly the revolutionary institutions and organs of the city, to cooperate in making the Friday prayers in Qeshm as impressive as possible.

Detention of Reporter in Eslamabad Condemned

NC0812205189 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 26 Nov 89 p 18

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Despite the explicit remarks by Ayatollah Yazdi, the honorable head of the judiciary, on the need for judges to respect the law on the press and to refrain from confrontations with journalists, unfortunately a limited number of provincial judicial and executive officials continue to commit illegal acts by confronting correspondents. The commander, mayor, and judge of Eslamabad have gone beyond the others in violating the law and are doing everything they can against the KEYHAN correspondent in that town.

The protracted adventure involving these respectable officials and the KEYHAN correspondent and the dismantling of the KEYHAN kiosk there started when the said correspondent refused to fulfill a request by the Eslamabad commander and publish a report against another Eslamabad official. This led to the correspondent's receiving a suspended sentence of 2 years in prison and 50 lashes. Does this act not show the weakness of that town's officials and the fact that the presence of the correspondent evokes insecurity and fear among them? Does this act not show that by trampling on all the laws, they are trying to take revenge against an innocent person and terrify him to such an extent that the correspondent begged the newspaper not to pursue the matter so that he will not suffer additional pressures?

It is not clear what the triangle of the commander-mayor-judge of Eslamabad will do if they confront someone whose voice cannot be heard by anyone.

At any rate, we will not continue to talk about this incident because such officials are so rare in the country that they can be counted on one hand. For example, our dear readers can read the report published in this issue of our newspaper on the remarks by the honorable governor general of Khorasan who spoke to the gathering of the province's executive council and supported the rights of the press and of the journalists.

However, the honorable head of the judicial branch and the honorable minister of justice are expected to take the necessary steps in order to stop the judge, the commander, and the mayor of Eslamabad from violating the law. Furthermore, the honorable head of the judicial branch should order an end to the illegal detention of the said correspondent and dismiss the case against him, and also look into the illegal acts committed by the Eslamabad court.

In conclusion, we deem it necessary to point out for the information of the commander, the mayor, and the judge of Eslamabad that this item is being published despite the wish of the said KEYHAN correspondent; therefore, they should not increase their pressures on him.

Stock Market Activities, Sales of Shares Increase

NC0712131789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] While less than 2 weeks have passed since the Tehran Stock Market Organization recommenced its activities, more and more people are applying to the organization every day to purchase shares of profitable production plants. In order to overcome this congestion and accelerate the people's affairs, the Tehran Stock Market Organization has decided to operate throughout the week instead of only 3 days of week.

Our correspondent reports that following the announcement of guarantees by officials that profits will be paid on factory shares purchased by the people, several merchants went to the stock market. Our correspondent 'Attaran interviewed a number of people. We invite you to listen to these interviews.

[Begin recording] ['Attaran] Why have you come here?
[First unidentified person] To buy shares.
['Attaran] How much do you intend to spend?
[First unidentified person] I have not decided on a specific amount yet and I am studying the market.
['Attaran] In what line of business are you?
[First unidentified person] I am a merchant.
['Attaran] What motivated you to purchase shares?
[First unidentified person] I want to purchase shares because of the lack of activity in the free market.
['Attaran] How much are you going to spend on shares?
[Second unidentified person] This is the first day that I have come here. I am going to study the market and then decide.
['Attaran] In your opinion, what impact will this move by the goverment have on the country's economic system?
[Second unidentified person] If these shares are backed by guarantees, then I think that the outlook is good. But definitely I have to study the market first.
['Attaran] What do you do?
[Second unidentified person] I am a merchant.
['Attaran] How much do you intend to spend on shares today?
[Third unidentified person] I am not going to buy today. I have come here to study the market and to buy at an opportune time. I am optimistic. It is better if we buy shares. I am a bazaar merchant. The best way to make money is for the factories to start operation thus creating jobs for the people and generating some profits for us.
['Attaran] What is your line of business?
[Third unidentified person] I have been a bazaar merchant for 40 years but I am unemployed now.
['Attaran] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Editorial on Dangers of Advertisements in Press

NC0812204089 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 27 Nov 89 pp 1, 3

[Editorial: "The Press and the Experience of Limited Companies"]

[Text] The phenomenon of "limited partnership companies" is a noteworthy topic which should be discussed from several aspects. The role of KEYHAN and the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in increasing public knowledge and awareness about the threats emanating from the brokerage activities of many such companies has been effective.

One of the possible results of these effective informative steps is that the country's press may pay more attention to methods of exploiting advertisers by publishing various advertisements in newspapers and magazines.

There are many people who, after seeing and studying advertisements carried in the press, think the editors of newspapers and even government officials are aware of the nature of the activities of companies that are being formed. Such assumptions naturally lead to the building of public trust toward such companies and grant them social credibility.

Thus, we see how middlemen and those who can destroy the country's economy with their deviant acts and thus harm the deprived people and the Islamic system sometimes use their full knowledge of existing realities and possibilities to exploit easily those very means and organs that are trying to protect the rights of the oppressed for their own benefit. The press and the mass media in the Islamic Republic continuously speak of the poor, the deprived, and the consumers. They carry slogans and articles supporting them. However, we see how those who destroy the economy of the country are using these very means and organs to convey their own messages and how, by publishing various advertisements, they even raise prices, increase inflation, create black markets, and give rise to artificial situations.

Gaining more knowledge about this subversive and anticultural phenomenon can help the press and the mass media adopt more alert, popular, and revolutionary policies when it comes to the publication of various advertisements. Let us hope that alertness will not be sacrificed for advertisements.

Pakistan

PPP Member 'Manhandled' in Punjab Assembly 12 Dec

BK1212161589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] The assembly session was adjourned until tomorrow following pandemonium which broke out when two members of the government bench manhandled a member of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP],

Faizal Hussain Zahid. This incident took place after the end of the question hour in the house and after the unanimous adoption of three identical adjournment motions for discussion moved by three members of Islami Jamhoori Ittehad yesterday, concerning the non-availability of fertilizer. A member of the panel of chairman, Begum Bushra Rahman, who was presiding over the session, announced that Faizal Hussain Zahid is banned from the assembly's proceedings for 2 days.

Speaking at a news conference in Lahore today, the opposition leader in the Punjab assembly, Rana Showkath Mahmud, said the opposition will boycott the proceedings for 2 days as a mark of sympathy with Faizal Hussain Zahid. He strongly condemned the misbehavior with the member of the Pakistan People's Party in the house.

Court Disposes of Case on Appointment of Judges

BK1112022989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Excerpt] The Supreme Court today disposed of the federal government's appeal against the relevant order of Lahore High Court after excising Para 5 of the High Court judgment relating to interpretation of the Constitution regarding appointment of judges of superior courts.

When the court assembled to take up hearing of the appeal today, the deputy attorney general, Mr S.A. Wadud, submitted that he had been instructed by the government to seek the court's permission to withdraw the appeal with a request that its appending portion as contained in Para 5 of the relevant judgment of Lahore High Court be excised if there was no objection from the other side. Mr Sharifuddin Pirzada, who headed a panel of lawyers representing the Punjab government, said his side had no objections.

The chief justice, Mr Justice Mohammad Halim, while granting leave to make the submission, observed that it was necessary that all the parties agree to it. While accepting the plea of the deputy attorney general, the chief justice, in a short order, remarked that the appeal had been disposed of accordingly. [passage omitted]

Japan To Provide Assistance for TV, Lab Projects

BK1012113489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] Under two separate agreements signed in Islamabad today, Japan is to provide over 321 million rupees to Pakistan as grant in aid for the establishment of the second TV channel and a geo-science laboratory.

Over 247 million rupees are to be made available for phase 1 of the projects for establishment of a second TV channel. Over 74 million rupees will be used on the construction of a geo-science laboratory in Islamabad.

Sri Lanka

Communique Notes Arrest of 'Over 100 Subversives'

BK1212103689 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0936 GMT 12 Dec 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 12 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—The JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] leader of Pelmadulla in the Ratnapura District was killed by security forces, while over 100 subversives were arrested yesterday.

A government communique issued today states that in the Western Province, at Gampaha several Sri Lanka Transport Board [SLTB] buses was burnt by subversives. One subversive gave himself up to the security forces.

At Kalutara, unknown persons set fire to the landscape rubber factory [as received]. In the Sabaragamuwa Province at Ratnapura, subversives entered the RVDB [expansion unknown] complex and set fire to several vehicles. Security forces shot and killed the JVP leader of Pelmadulla.

In the Southern Province at Hambantota, several buses and government buildings were set fire by subversives. At Matara in Mawarella, an uncle of a police constable was shot dead. At Morawakakanda, a father of a soldier was killed. In the Uva Province at Badulla, security forces arrested 102 subversives.

In the Central Province at Matale, subversives set fire to two government buildings. In the North Central Province at Anuradapura, the Nombekade power centre and the paddy marketing board office were set on fire. At Kebethegollawa, a gang of seven armed subversives dressed in Army type uniforms had gone to the agricultural extension office, the magistrates court and the AGA's [Assistant Government Agent] office with the intention of committing some crime. Police on foot patrol had opened fire and the subversives had fled.

In the North Western Province at Kurunagala, police opened fire at subversives who were attempting to set fire to a SLTB bus. Two subversives were killed. Twenty-three subversives were arrested at Deraniyagala by security forces.

In the Eastern Province at Batticaloa, EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] cadres robbed two Massey Ferguson trailers and two jeeps from government offices.

Further on JVP 'Rampage'

BK1112093089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0921 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] Colombo, Dec 11 (AFP)—At least 50 people, including two soldiers, died in an upsurge of violence

across Sri Lanka, as rebels went on a rampage torching dozens of vehicles and government property, officials here said monday.

Activists from the People's Liberation Front (JVP) were held responsible for slaying at least 45 people in different incidents in Southern Province overnight Sunday, local officials said. They said the victims included eight relatives of security force personnel, the rest being mostly ruling United National Party supporters or those suspected by the rebels to be police informants.

The Transport Ministry said 71 state-owned buses and bus depots had been torched over the weekend by suspected rebels. Four railway stations too had been attacked. Some train services were disrupted Monday after the track was damaged at Veyangoda, 40 kilometers (25 miles) northeast of here, officials said, adding that two coaches also had been burnt in the area.

A government statement said subversives, an official term for JVP men, blew up an Army mobile patrol in southern Matara District, 160 kilometers (100 miles) south of here Sunday, killing two soldiers and one civilian. Six soldiers seriously wounded in the landmine attack have been flown to Colombo for intensive care.

Three rebels who attacked the house of a junior minister were killed when police returned their fire in eastern Polonnaruwa District, the government statement said. It said two more subversives were killed while putting up posters in southern Moneragala District.

The statement also blamed subversives for an attack on a phosphate factory in North Central Province and a tile manufacturing plant in southern Ratnapura District. Both facilities were owned by the government.

Officials said rebels torched 20 heavy vehicles at the state-run river valleys development board at Udawalawe, also in Ratnapura District, and eight bulldozers at a government sugar cane farm in the same area Sunday.

The JVP arson attacks on Sunday were the worst on a single day carried out by the group since its top leadership was wiped out by the security forces in mid-November, officials said. The government has said that the JVP no longer posed a major threat.

Meanwhile local press reports Monday quoted a leading Buddhist monk in central Kandy town saying that he heard of 25 to 30 bodies lying on roadsides in the district almost daily. The authorities usually blame unidentified anti-JVP death squads, but the JVP and human rights groups say the security forces are heavily involved.

The chief monk of Malwatte chapter, the venerable Rambukwelle Sri Dharmarakkhite Vipassi, had said those killed included Buddhist monks, the English language ISLAND DAILY reported. He made the remarks when opposition leader and former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike called on him Saturday, the newspaper said, adding that the monk had asked Mrs. Bandaranaike to cooperate with the government to end violence. Mrs. Bandaranaike had asked the monk to organise the Buddhist clergy and put pressure on President Ranasinghe Premadasa to restore peace in the troubled island nation. Her government in 1971 put down a JVP led insurrection with the loss of at least 10,000 lives.

Arms Seized From 'Subversives' Destroyed 10 Dec

BK1012102089 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0953 GMT 10 Dec 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 10 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—A large quantity of arms and ammunition, including shotguns, self-loading rifles and improvised explosives devices [IED] captured from subversives since 1987 are being destroyed. Media personnel witnessed a large quantity of weapons being crushed by a roller at the army headquarters in Colombo this morning.

Security sources told LANKAPUVATH that 3,953 weapons were destroyed today and some 4,000 more will be destroyed shortly. They said that the weapons destroyed were condemned as beyond economical repair by a team of experts. The sources said that debris of the weapons that were crushed will be dumped in deep sea.

LTTE Reports Rivals Fleeing Abroad

BK1112120789 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has alleged in a news release that many of its rivals are hurriedly quitting the country. The panicky members of the puppet groups want to take as much revenge as possible on LTTE supporters and escape to Western countries before total withdrawal of the Indian troops. Many members of these groups are seen in Colombo near the passport office and offices of travel agencies, the LTTE news release said.

The release alleged that funds for pulling out of the country were being raised by robberies and listed three incidents between 6 December and 8 December involving the robbery of jewelry, the waylaying of a bus, and a possible removal of gold jewelry from a wedding house. The release also said that a bus from Batticaloa to Kiran had been fired at, killing four civilians.